

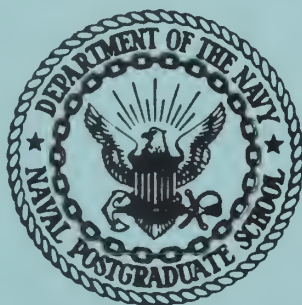
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ENERGY LOSS OF HIGH ENERGY ELECTRONS
IN ALUMINUM AND COPPER.

by

James C. Goodwin

UNITED STATES NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL



THESIS

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December 1968

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ENERGY LOSS OF HIGH ENERGY ELECTRONS

IN ALUMINUM AND COPPER

by

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Lieutenant Commander, United States Navy
B. S., United States Naval Academy, 1958

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the
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ABSTRACT

The LINAC at NPGS, Monterey was used to accelerate electrons to energies ranging from 50 - 100 MeV. These were used to study energy losses of high energy electrons in aluminum and copper. The densities of each material ranged from 0.7 to 2.8 gm/cm².

The results agreed with the theory of Blunck and Westphal, unlike previous measurements made by Breuer who found disagreement between his experimental results and his interpretation of the theory of Blunck and Westphal, particularly at energies above 50 MeV and with aluminum of thickness greater than that yielding a density of 1 gm/cm².

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I. INTRODUCTION

Electrons passing through media lose energy. The principal losses are through bremsstrahlung (braking radiation), and ionization and excitation of the atomic electrons. Due to the great difference in the masses of the incident electron and the nuclei, virtually no energy is lost to recoil of the nuclei.

If a monoenergetic beam of electrons passes through a slab of matter, the transmitted electrons will emerge with energy less than the incident beam. In addition the transmitted electrons will not all lose the same amount of energy, so that a distribution of energies results. If a polyenergetic beam passes through the slab, it will already have an energy distribution when incident on the slab. By interaction with the matter, the mean of the distribution will be at a lower energy and the distribution will be broadened.

From theoretical considerations of the passage of electrons through relatively thin materials one derives a most probable energy loss, Q_p , and the width of the energy distribution of the exiting electrons. The width considered is the full width of the distribution at half the maximum amplitude. This will be called the "half width".

When the incident electrons scatter from the nuclei, it lengthens their path through the medium (as well as causing bremsstrahlung). For lengthening is shown to be insignificant for the energies thicknesses and media which were examined by Miller (1), who based his computations on the work of Yang (2) with data from Rossi (3). He shows that for incident energies greater than 50 MeV and absorber

thicknesses less than that yielding 5 grams of the material per square centimeter, the predicted path increases are: average path lengthening, less than 0.3%; most probable path lengthening, less than 0.2%; and maximum path lengthening for 90% of the electrons, less than 0.6%. The experimental values to be reported had incident energies greater than 53 MeV, and absorber thicknesses which yielded a maximum of 2.9 grams/cm².

Several theoretical treatments of these energy losses (4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9) and a few measurements (1, 10, 11, 12, and 13) are extant. Breuer (13) found agreement with the theory of Sternheimer (9) concerning most probable energy loss. He found half widths systematically larger than the values calculated by Blunck and Westphal (4).

Miller suggested that Breuer erred in his interpretation of Sternheimer when he concluded that the most probable loss due to ionization and excitation, Q_{pi} , varies linearly with absorber thickness. Miller also wished to examine the discrepancy between the half widths predicted by Blunck and Westphal (B & W) and those observed by Breuer.

Consequently Miller used the linear electron accelerator (LINAC) at the Naval Postgraduate School to measure the energy loss of electrons passing through aluminum, with incident energies between 60 and 100 MeV. Unfortunately many of his measurements were inconclusive due to geometrical problems encountered in the gathering of data.

Therefore these measurements were made again with a different experimental arrangement. Then a similar set of data was taken using

copper as the absorbing medium. These data (for both aluminum and copper) agree with the energy loss predictions of Blunck and Westphal.

II. THEORY

Blunck and Westphal (B & W) (4) have developed a theoretical energy distribution for the exiting electrons which considers losses due to ionization, excitation and radiation. It is based on the works of Landau (5), Blunck and Leisegang (6), Eyges (7), and Bethe and Heitler (8). Their distribution is expressed in terms of a dimensionless parameter λ , related to the energy loss Q by:

$$\lambda = \frac{Q - \bar{Q}}{aR} + \frac{\ln E_i}{aR} - 1.116$$

$\bar{Q}$ is the average energy loss through ionization (in MeV). E_i is the incident energy of the electrons (in MeV), and R is the thickness (in cm) of the absorbing medium. The constant a is a function of the atomic number Z , the atomic weight A , and the density in grams per square centimeter ρ of the absorbing medium; and the velocity ($\beta = v/c$) of the electron. One finds from B & W that:

$$a = 0.154 \frac{Z}{A} \times \frac{\rho}{\beta^2} \quad \left(\frac{\text{MeV}}{\text{cm}} \right)$$

The probability distribution $W(Q)dQ$ is given as:

$$W(Q)dQ = B \times \left(\frac{aR}{E_i} \right)^{\alpha R} \times F_{\alpha R, b^2}(\lambda) d\lambda$$

and

$$F_{\alpha R, b^2}(\lambda) = \Gamma(\alpha R + 1) \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^{\frac{\alpha R}{2}} \sum_n \frac{C_n \gamma_n e^{-\frac{(\lambda - \lambda_n)}{2(b^2 + \gamma_n^2)}}}{\sqrt{(b^2 + \gamma_n^2)^2 - \alpha R^2}} D_{-\alpha R} \left(-\frac{\sqrt{2}(\lambda - \lambda_n)}{\sqrt{b^2 + \gamma_n^2}} \right)$$

B is a normalizing constant. The quantities C_n , γ_n , λ_n are constants given for appropriate values of the summation constant, n, in Table I below.

TABLE I. DISTRIBUTION CONSTANTS

n	1	2	3	4
C_n	0.174	0.058	0.019	0.007
γ_n	0.0	3.0	6.5	11.0
λ_n	1.8	2.0	3.0	5.0

α is a constant related to the losses due to radiation. It was taken by B & W from Bethe and Heitler and is given as:

$$\alpha = 1.40 \times 10^{-3} \times \frac{Z^2}{A} \times \rho [4/3 \ln (^{183}/_Z 1/3) + 1/g] \quad \left(\frac{1}{\text{cm}}\right)$$

The term b^2 is from Blunck and Leisegang and is given by:

$$b^2 = \left(\frac{2}{aR}\right) (1.5) \sum_s \frac{I_s N_s}{Z} \times \ln \left(\frac{2E_i}{I_s(1 - \beta^2)} \right)$$

where the summation is over the s different ionization potentials of the atomic electrons of the absorber. N_s is the number of electrons per atom or molecule of the absorber with the ionization potential I_s . (When calculating b^2 for the copper absorbers, the ionization potentials given by Sternheimer (9(a)) were used. In this case, the factor 1.5 becomes 1.3. Another useful source of these potentials is Bearden and Burr (14).

$$D_{-\alpha R} \left(-\frac{\sqrt{2}(\lambda - \lambda_n)}{\sqrt{b^2 + \gamma_n}} \right) \text{ is the parabolic cylinder function of the}$$

indicated arguments.

B & W calculated values of the function $F_{\alpha R, b^2}(\lambda)$ for 4 values of b^2 ; 0, 3, 6, and 9. These are presented graphically. Curves were drawn for αR values of 0, 0.05, 0.10, 0.15, 0.20, and 0.25 for each value of b^2 . They were plotted as functions of λ , with λ ranging from approximately -7 to +15. For a given incident energy and absorber thickness, the distribution $W(Q)$ is directly proportional to $F_{\alpha R, b^2}(\lambda)$. All other terms are normalization terms. Because Q is linearly proportional to λ , one can write:

$$Q = (aR)\lambda + Q_0$$

or

$$\lambda = \frac{Q - Q_0}{aR}$$

where Q_0 is the energy loss corresponding to λ equals zero, and is given by:

$$Q_0 = \bar{Q} - aR \times \ln \left(\frac{E_i}{aR} \right) + 1.116(aR)$$

In evaluating $\bar{Q}$, the average energy loss due to ionization and excitation, the equations of Sternheimer (9) are used. These consider the density effect due to polarization of the medium. His equations for the average energy loss can be combined and written as:

$$\bar{Q} = \frac{A_s t}{\beta^2} \left[B_s + 0.43 + \ln E_i - \beta^2 - C - a_s (X_1 - \log_{10} \frac{p}{mc})^{m_s} \right]$$

The terms A_s , B_s , C , X_1 , a_s , and m_s are constants characteristic of the absorbing material. They are found in Sternheimer 9(c) and are tabulated below for aluminum and copper.

TABLE II

	A_s	B_s	C	X_1	a_s	m_s
Al	0.0740	16.77	-4.21	3	0.0906	3.51
Cu	0.0701	15.09	-4.74	3	0.119	3.38

From the relativistic mass/energy relationship one can find that:

$$\frac{p}{mc} = \frac{pc}{mc^2} = \frac{\sqrt{E^2 + 2mc^2E}}{mc^2}.$$

Sternheimer (9,b) also gives an expression for the most probable energy loss due to ionization and excitation, Q_{pi} . Of interest is a comparison of Q_{pi} , the most probable loss from B & W, and experimental results. This will show the relative effects of ionization and excitation compared to that of radiation losses on the most probable energy loss. The expression for Q_{pi} is:

$$Q_{pi} = \frac{A_s t}{\beta^2} \left[B_s + 1.06 + \ln \left(\frac{A_s t}{\beta^2} \right) - \beta^2 - C - a_s \left(X_1 - \log_{10} \frac{p}{mc} \right)^{m_s} \right]$$

If one assumes a given E_i and small energy losses, this expression reduces to:

$$Q_{pi} = K_1 t + K_2 t (\ln t)$$

where K_1 and K_2 are constants determined by the previous expression.

This shows the variation of the most probable energy loss (due to excitation and ionization) with absorber thickness. It is clearly non-linear in t , contrary to the interpretation of Breuer. Dividing through by t yields:

$$Q_{pi}/t = K_1 + K_2 (\ln t)$$

This shows that given an initial energy the quantity Q_{pi}/t is not uniquely determined, but rather varies with the thickness of the absorber, t . Plotting Q_{pi}/t versus E_i results in a family of curves, each for a different absorber thickness, as shown by Miller in his figure 1; this is not a single straight line as shown by Breuer in his figure 4.

Miller shows in figure 3 a series of curves from which one can derive B & W's prediction for the values of most probable energy loss and half width. He also plots Q_{pi} versus t for an E_i of 70 MeV as figure 2. Figure 3 shows Q_p , the most probable energy loss when radiation losses are also considered, versus t for 70 MeV.

III. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

In order to measure the energy loss of electrons passing through matter, the LINAC was used as a source of the high energy electrons. The energy of the exiting electrons was measured by using the 16 inch magnetic spectrometer described by Kenaston, Luke, and Sones (15). The energy of the incident beam was measured by using a nuclear magnetic resonance probe to measure the field of the deflection magnet of the LINAC.

If the spectrometer had been placed in a zero degree position, any beam current large enough to be stable would have saturated the counting system. For this reason, a 3.3 mil aluminum foil was placed at an angle of 45° to the electron beam. This was used to scatter out from the main beam a secondary flux of electrons. Close behind the scattering foil were the absorbers (see figure 1). These were parallel to the beam line. The spectrometer was set at an angle of 90° to the beam approximately 30 cm from the absorbers.

Miller's initial set-up was the same except that his absorbers were 22 cm from the scattering foil, mounted on a rotating wheel. In his "Discussion" he shows that this lead to a broadening of the energy distributions of the exiting electrons. This was due to electrons which were scattered by the absorber into the spectrometer which resulted in their appearing to have come from a displaced source with different energy. This is discussed at length by Miller. Another slight difference is that he set the spectrometer at 45° .

For this reason the absorbers were mounted close to the scattering foil (7 mm away at one end and 39 mm at the other.) In order to position absorbers of different thicknesses in place, a laminate of differing

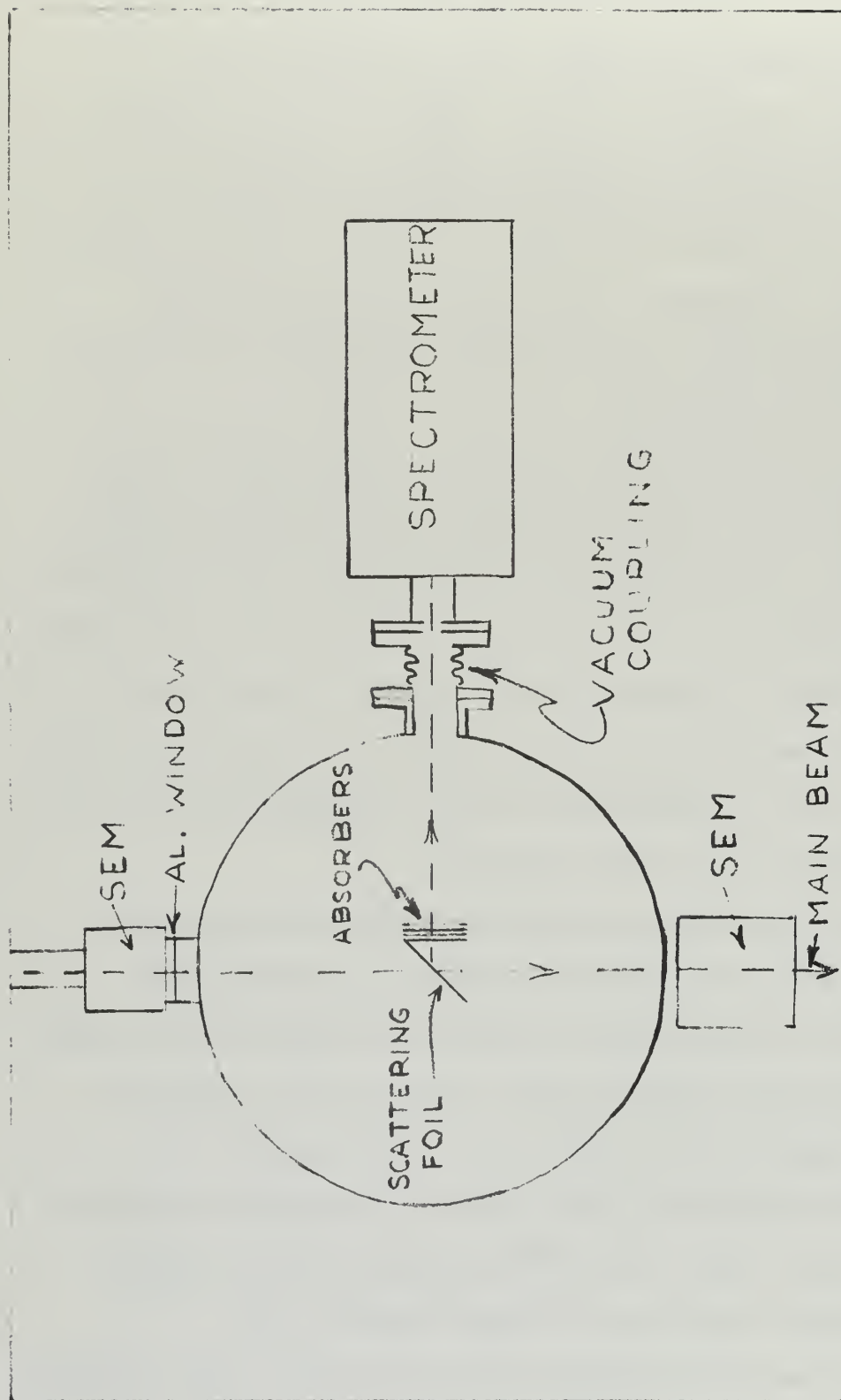


FIGURE 1. Experimental Arrangement (top view)

lengths of absorber material was raised and lowered by a piston. Figure 2 illustrates this arrangement. Because the target chamber was evacuated to approximately 50 microns there was no air between the layers of absorber material to affect the results. The absorbers were parallel to the beam and 2.2 cm away from the beam center line. They did not scatter electrons from the main beam into the spectrometer. The slot over which no scattering foil was placed was used to measure the experimental background. The topmost position which had scattering foil but no absorber behind was used to measure the energy distribution of the electrons incident on the absorbers.

The vacuum coupling described by Miller was used to couple the spectrometer to the target chamber, eliminating all windows between the absorbers and the spectrometer magnet.

The spectrometer and counting system measure the number of electrons within a small energy interval entering the magnet. For this reason many measurements at slightly different energies are necessary to construct the profile of the energy distribution. In order to ensure that each measurement represented the same amount of secondary beam incident on the absorbers a secondary emission monitor (SEM) was used to monitor the main electron beam. The output of the SEM was measured by a Cary integrating electrometer, with a 10 microfarad input capacitor. When this reached a predetermined charge counting was stopped. In this manner the data were standardized to a given amount of charge from the beam incident on the scattering foil. Typical values used are 100 millivolts to 1 volt which represent 10 to 100 microcoulombs of beam charge (because of the 10% efficiency of the SEM).

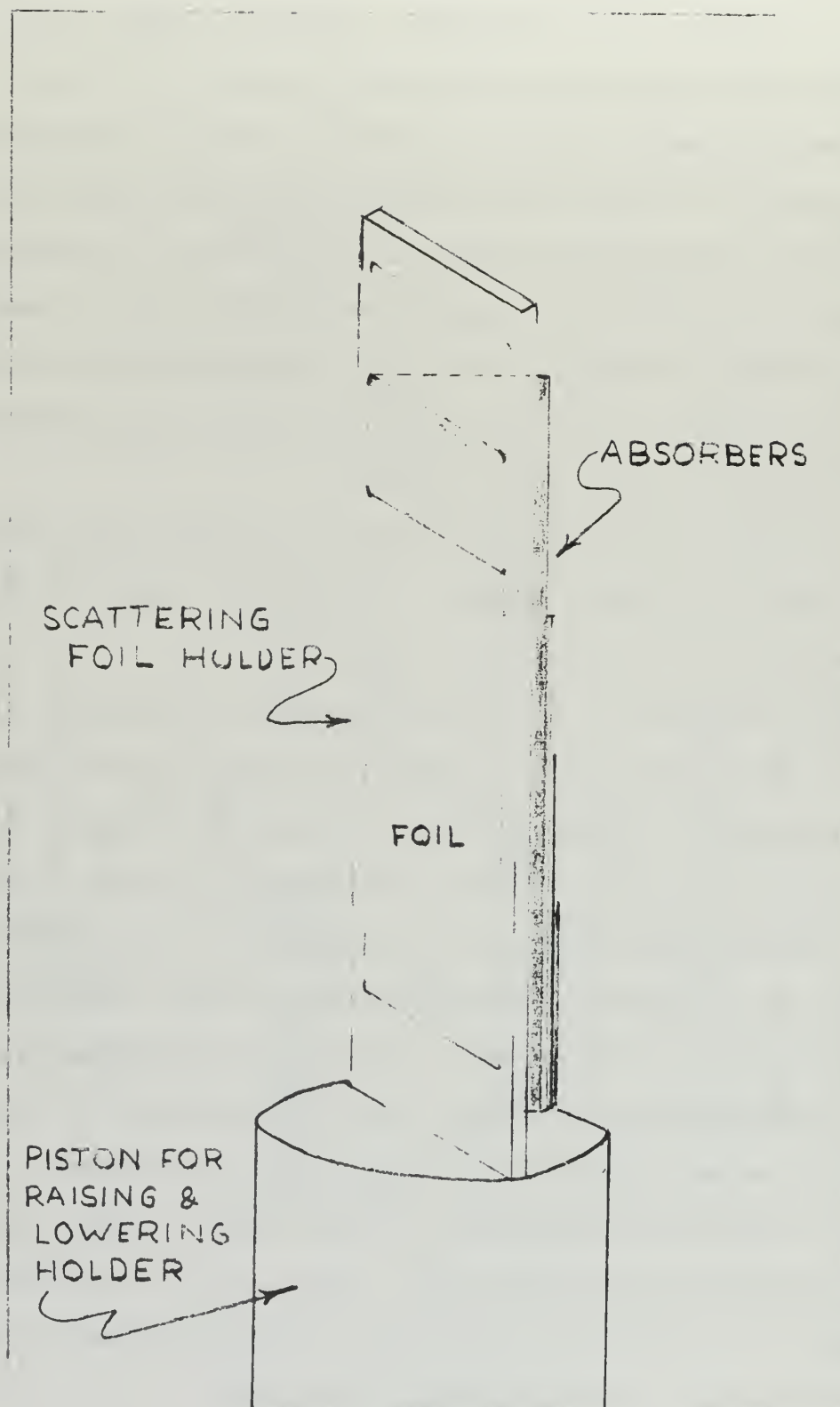


FIGURE 2. Experimental Arrangement (side view)

Data taken were: spectrometer energy setting, number of counts observed, time of integration, and voltage to which the charge on the capacitor was integrated. At approximately 1 MeV intervals the background was measured by integrating charge with the closest (to the beam) absorber in place but no scattering foil. These values were used later in determining how much background to subtract from the number of counts observed.

IV. TREATMENT OF DATA

The theory presented earlier presumes a monoenergetic source of electrons. While the LINAC produces an essentially monoenergetic beam of electrons there is a finite width distribution in energy of the electrons comprising the beam. The secondary beam, which is incident on the absorbers, is scattered from the main beam by a thin aluminum foil and this scattering adds to the width of the energy distribution. Thus the secondary beam incident on the absorbers had an experimentally measured average half width of 0.5% of the incident energy. This width cannot be considered monoenergetic. A plot of the distribution in energy of the electrons incident on the absorbers and the resulting distributions in energy of the electrons after passing through the several absorbers is shown as figure 3. This is a plot of the values observed with incident energy 74.63 MeV and copper absorbers. It is typical of all the other combinations of energy and absorber material.

The difficulty in deriving a predicted energy loss and half width stems from the fact that neither is the incident beam monoenergetic, nor is there a simple mathematical expression for its distribution. If it were monoenergetic, the resulting distributions after passing through the absorbers could be derived from the theory presented in section II in a straightforward manner. If the beam were polyenergetic but were distributed in a simple manner, the resulting distributions could also be derived from the theory in a not so straightforward but soluble manner. One would perform the integration:

$$R(E_f) = \int_{E_i} W(E_i - E_f) \times D(E_i) dE_i$$

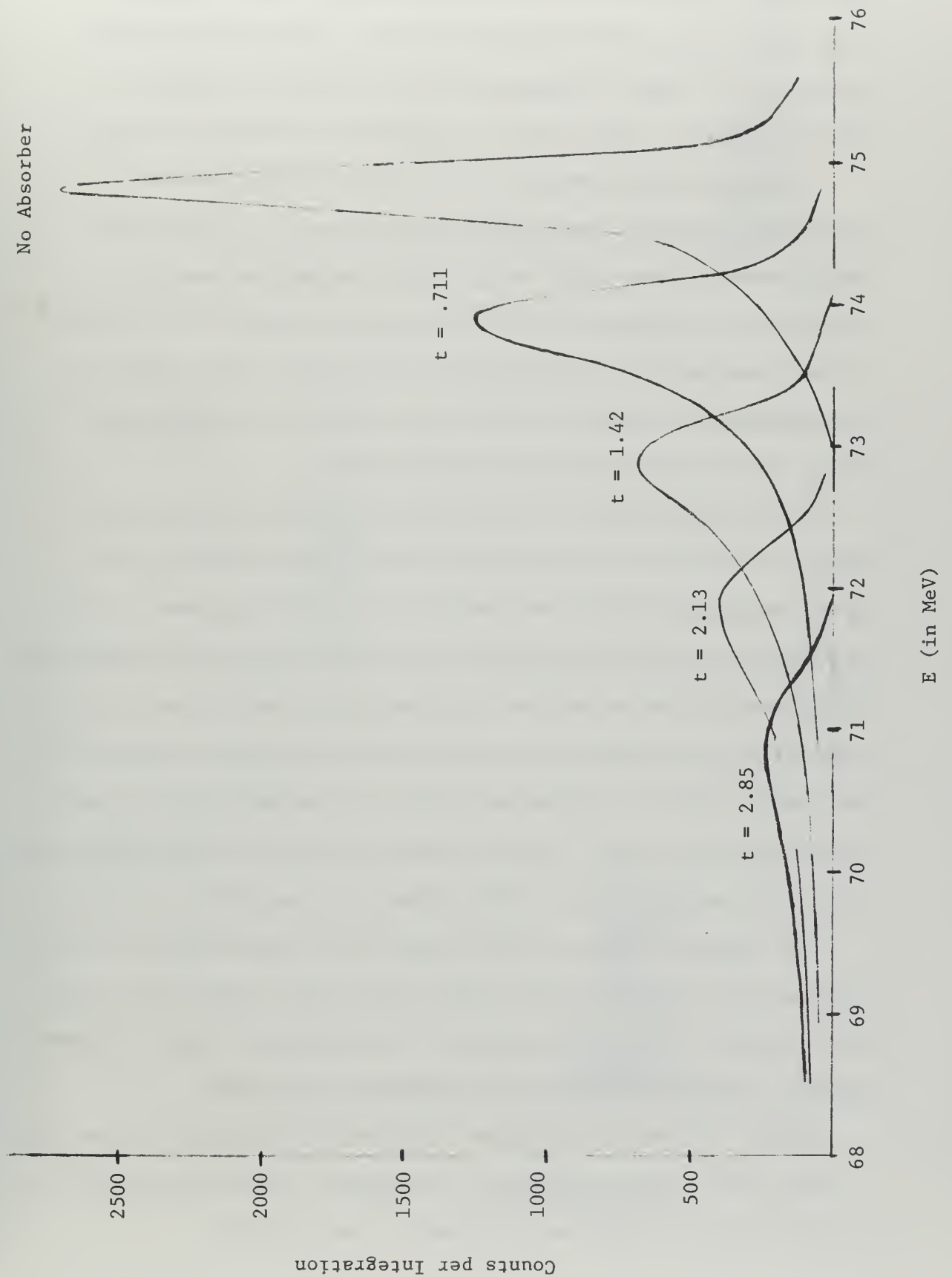


Figure 3. Energy Distribution, 74.63 MeV Incident Energy Copper Absorbers

where $R(E_f)$ is the resulting distribution, $W(E_i - E_f)$ is from the theory, and $D(E_i)$ is the hypothesized known incident distribution function. The range of integration would be over the range of incident energies. This would be a difficult integration, at best.

A very good approximation is to use the histogram method described by Miller. The incident distribution is divided into a large number of equal width energy slices and each of these is considered a monoenergetic source with amplitude given by the value of real distribution at the mid-point of the slice. The theoretical distribution was similarly divided into slices with the same width in energy as the incident beam distribution slices.

Then the amplitudes of the observed incident distribution and theory curves from B & W were fed into the IBM 360 computer at the Naval Postgraduate School and handled in the following manner. Each experimental amplitude was multiplied in turn by each of the amplitudes from the theory curves and the resulting products were stored in bins together with the appropriate energy value for that bin, determined by the theory of B & W. Succeeding products were added to the contents of the appropriate bins. In this manner resulting energy distribution predictions were generated. This process is illustrated in figure 4.

The observed values for each absorber and energy combination had previously been plotted, and a smooth curve drawn through the points. The predicted curves were normalized by the computer to have the same maximum amplitude as the faired in observed value curves.

Figure 4 shows two histograms $D(E)$ and $W(Q)$ being used to generate a third, $R(E)$. They correspond to the observed initial distribution, B & W curves, and predicted distribution, respectively.

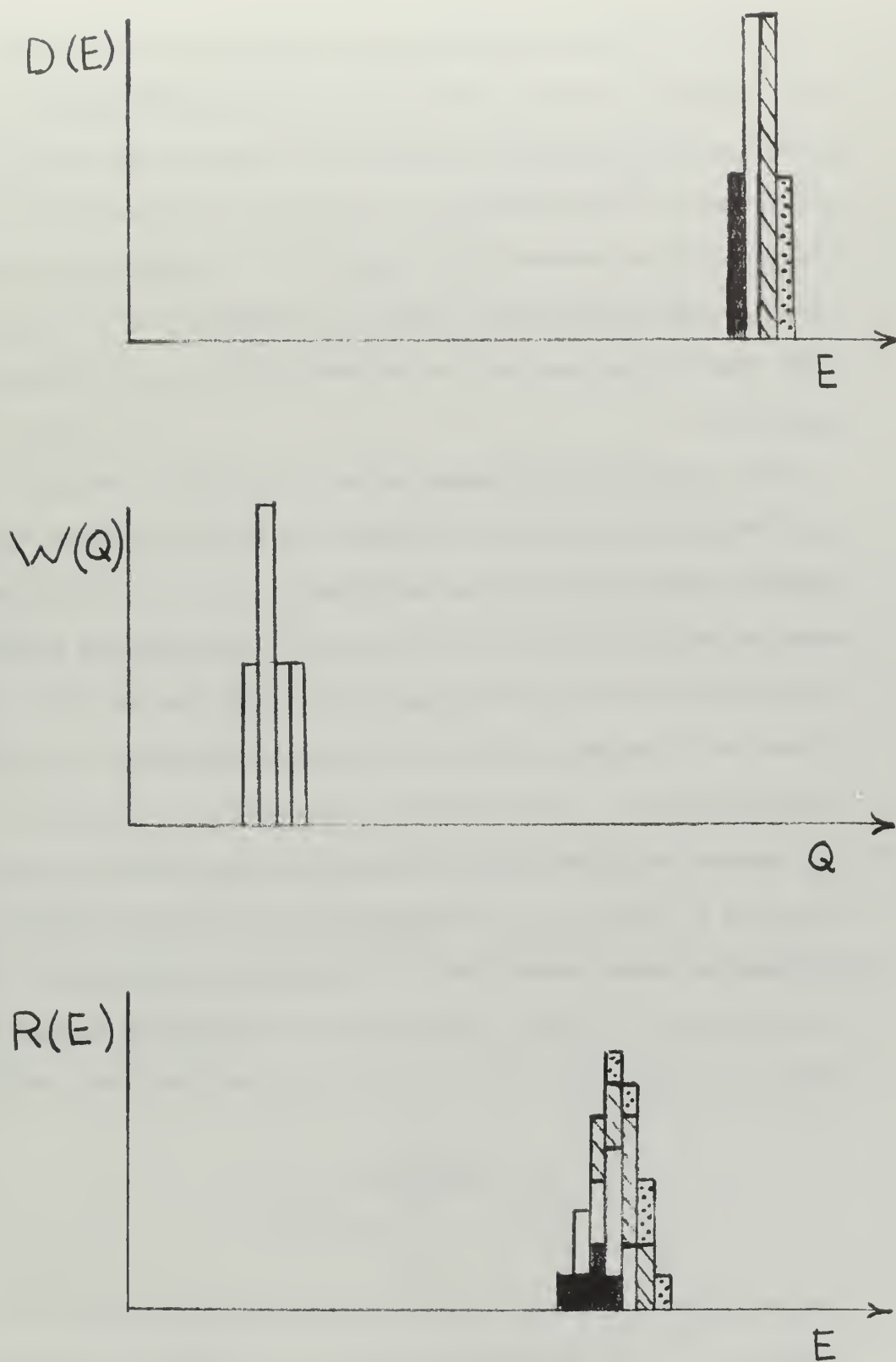


FIGURE 4. Histogram Process

The B & W curves used were those for $b^2 = 0$. Miller shows (c.f. his figure 8) that there is no significant difference between the curve predicted by the $b^2 = 0$ curves in B & W and $b^2 = 3$. In this work, b^2 ranged from a low of 0.088, corresponding to the thickest aluminum absorber (2.86 gms/cm²) and 53.6 MeV; to a high of 0.934, corresponding to the thinnest copper absorber (0.71 gms/cm²) at 94.3 MeV. From this one can see that the $b^2 = 0$ curves were appropriate.

The B & W curves are truncated at $\lambda = 15$. This results in minor discrepancies at the low energy tail of the predicted distribution. Therefore they were extended exponentially to $\lambda = 30$; by matching the amplitude and slope at $\lambda = 15$. This would not affect the predicted half-width but should more accurately represent the low energy tail. In one case it became necessary to extrapolate from $\alpha R = .25$ to obtain the curve for $\alpha R = .30$; for the Cu target with $t = 2.85 \text{ gm-cm}^{-2}$.

Incident energies used in calculating other parameters were calculated by taking the value measured by the nuclear magnetic resonance probe and subtracting from it energy losses due to recoil; and ionization, excitation, and radiation when passing through the thin scattering foil. Recoil losses were calculated from the formula:

$$T = \frac{E_o^2}{M_c^2} \left(\frac{2 \sin^2 \theta / 2}{1 + \frac{2E_o}{M_c} \sin^2 \theta / 2} \right)$$

from Hofstadter (16), and checked by the relationship derived in Appendix A. In the Hofstadter formula E_o is incident electron energy, M the mass of the aluminum nucleus, and θ was 90° in this case. (This is not inconsistent with the opening remarks that in passage through

the absorber, the losses to recoil are insignificant. Very few of the electrons incident on a slab are scattered out to an angle of 90° , yet virtually all of the electrons incident on the absorbers have been scattered to an angle near 90° by the foil. Because of the great difference in the masses the losses are small, typically 0.3 MeV loss at 94.5 MeV, but can't be neglected.) The values for ionization, excitation, and radiation losses were taken from Berger and Seltzer (17).

The B & W theoretical values reported in the Results section are not the Q_0 from the B & W theory because the B & W curves do not peak at $\lambda = 0$ and the predicted most probable energy loss is slightly greater than Q_0 . The reported values were obtained by subtracting the energy value of the peak of the predicted curve from that of the peak of the incident beam. The predicted half widths were measured from the predicted curves. These predicted curves and the corresponding experimental points are shown as figures 5 through 28 in the Results section.

Distribution parameters for aluminum and copper are shown below as Tables III and IV.

TABLE III DISTRIBUTION PARAMETERS-ALUMINUM

$t(\text{gm/cm}^2)$	$E_i(\text{MeV})$	b^2	$aR(\text{MeV})$	$R(\text{cm})$
0.730	96.93	0.374	0.0542	0.2743
	74.63	0.361	0.0542	
	53.57	0.345	0.0542	
1.441	96.93	0.190	0.1070	0.5418
	74.63	0.183	0.1070	
	53.57	0.175	0.1070	
2.146	96.93	0.127	0.1593	0.8067
	74.63	0.123	0.1593	
	53.57	0.117	0.1593	
2.859	96.93	0.096	0.2123	1.0749
	74.63	0.092	0.2123	
	53.57	0.088	0.2123	

Material: EC grade aluminum, purity 99.4%+

TABLE IV DISTRIBUTION PARAMETERS-COPPER

$t(\text{gm/cm}^2)$	$E_{\perp}(\text{MeV})$	b^2	$aR(\text{MeV})$	$R(\text{cm})$
0.711	94.30	0.934	0.050	0.080
	74.76	0.904	0.050	
	52.84	0.858	0.050	
1.423	94.30	0.467	0.09999	0.160
	74.76	0.452	0.09999	
	52.84	0.429	0.100	
2.134	94.30	0.311	0.14999	0.240
	74.76	0.301	0.14999	
	52.84	0.286	0.150	
2.845	94.30	0.233	0.19998	0.320
	74.76	0.226	0.19999	
	52.84	0.214	0.19999	

Material: Hard drawn copper, purity 99.0%+

The values presented as measured or observed number of counts are the number obtained by taking the raw data, correcting it for the effect of losses due to high counting rate, and subtracting off the background. For aluminum, a method similar to that used by Miller was used to correct for high counting rate. His relationship was:

$$N = EN(1 + (\frac{EN}{T}) \frac{3.3}{1160})$$

where N is the corrected number, EN is the raw data, and T is the time taken to count EN counts. The term $\frac{EN}{T}$ is the counting rate at which the

number EN was counted. The factor $\frac{3.3}{1160}$ was derived by varying the counting rate with a standard set up and observing the response of the counters. This response was graphed (counts versus counting rate) and the slope of this graph determined the numerical value of the correction factor.

The relationship used for aluminum in this case was:

$$N = EN \div (1 - (\frac{F}{1000} \times \frac{EN}{T})) - \text{Background}$$

Here $\frac{F}{1000}$ is the numerical value obtained by graphing the response of the counters after all data was taken at each energy.

For copper the beam was kept down to a value which would produce a maximum of 6 counts per second. When this is done, the correction becomes:

$$r_t = r_o (1 + .6r_o)$$

where r_t is the true number of counts per machine pulse, and r_o is the number of counts per machine pulse observed. This requires converting the observed counts and time to counts per machine pulse, but as shown by Browman (18) it will yield more accurate results because it is not dependent on the instantaneous shape of the machine pulses. Computer programs for correcting the observed counts are included as Appendices B and C.

V. RESULTS

The values predicted by theory and experimental results of most probable energy loss and distribution half widths for both aluminum and copper are shown in tables V and VI. The column headed S under Q_p is the Sternheimer prediction, B & W is the Blunck & Westphal prediction.

As one can readily see, the measured data fit the B & W theory well, and differ significantly from the Sternheimer predictions. When considering energy loss in aluminum, the observed data differ from the B & W curves by an average of $2\frac{1}{4}\%$ and differ from Sternheimer by 7%. With copper, the difference is more dramatic; average difference from B & W is $1\frac{1}{2}\%$, average difference from Sternheimer is $8\frac{1}{3}\%$. The half-widths observed agree with the B & W theory also. Of the 24 half-widths measured, 6 fall further away from the predicted value than the error limits assigned to the observed points. Because of the way the half width predictions were determined, error limits should be assigned to the predicted values. These come from the uncertainty in the exact energy of the incident beam. If a $\pm 0.3\%$ value is used as the uncertainty in energy (see Oberdier (19) and Miller (1)), then this would result in only three of these points being out of the error limits. This is quite good agreement. If there is a systematic error it is that the observed half widths are narrower than those predicted and is the opposite effect from that observed by Breuer.

In order to determine the tolerances in the observed energy losses and half widths, error bars were put on the observed points, and extreme case curves were plotted.

TABLE V ENERGY LOSS IN ALUMINUM

E_i (MeV)	t (gm/cm ²)	Q_p (MeV)		Experiment	HW (MeV)	
		B & W	S		Theory	Experiment
96.93	0.730	1.082	0.977	1.17	0.67	0.66
	1.441	2.166	2.002	2.16	1.00	1.01
	2.146	3.247	3.044	3.24	1.32	1.19
	2.859	4.370	4.117	4.32	1.79	1.48
74.63	0.730	1.066	0.976	1.04	0.59	0.51
	1.441	2.094	2.000	2.18	0.91	0.91
	2.146	3.174	3.041	3.17	1.21	1.08
	2.859	4.297	4.113	4.26	1.61	1.38
53.57	0.730	1.051	0.974	1.03	0.47	0.49
	1.441	2.088	1.996	2.16	0.75	0.75
	2.146	3.172	3.036	3.18	0.99	1.02
	2.859	4.347	4.106	4.21	1.35	1.32

TABLE VI ENERGY LOSS IN COPPER

E_i (MeV)	t (gm/cm ²)	Q_p (MeV)		HW (MeV)		
		B & W	S	Experiment	Theory	Experiment
94.30	0.711	1.014	0.840	0.95	0.69	0.74
	1.423	1.947	1.750	1.94	1.12	0.99
	2.134	2.956	2.685	2.93	1.62	1.47
	2.845	4.082	3.637	4.00	2.31	1.75
74.76	0.711	0.913	0.839	0.92	0.62	0.66
	1.423	1.894	1.747	1.91	1.01	1.07
	2.134	2.903	2.681	2.92	1.51	1.43
	2.845	3.978	3.633	3.98	2.16	1.98
52.84	0.711	0.950	0.837	0.94	0.50	0.52
	1.423	1.880	1.743	1.87	0.82	0.84
	2.134	2.886	2.675	2.87	1.27	1.16
	2.845	3.959	3.624	3.80	1.91	1.75

Plots of the predicted curves and observed points are included as figures 5 through 28. These were plotted by the IBM 360 computer. A plot of predicted and observed half widths with the aluminum absorbers is figure 29; copper, figure 30.

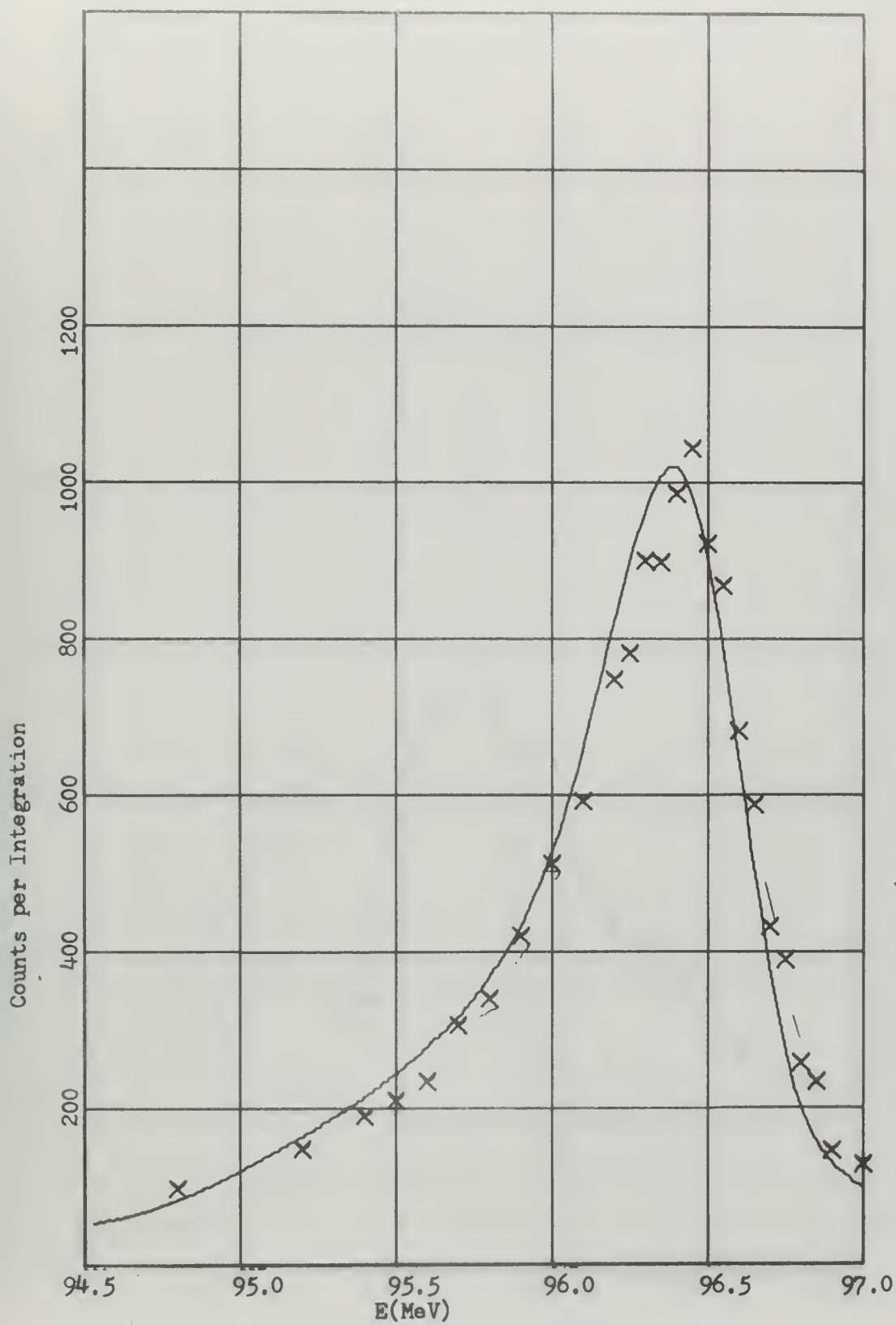


Figure 5. Predicted Distribution, Al
 $t=0.730 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 96.93 \text{ MeV}$

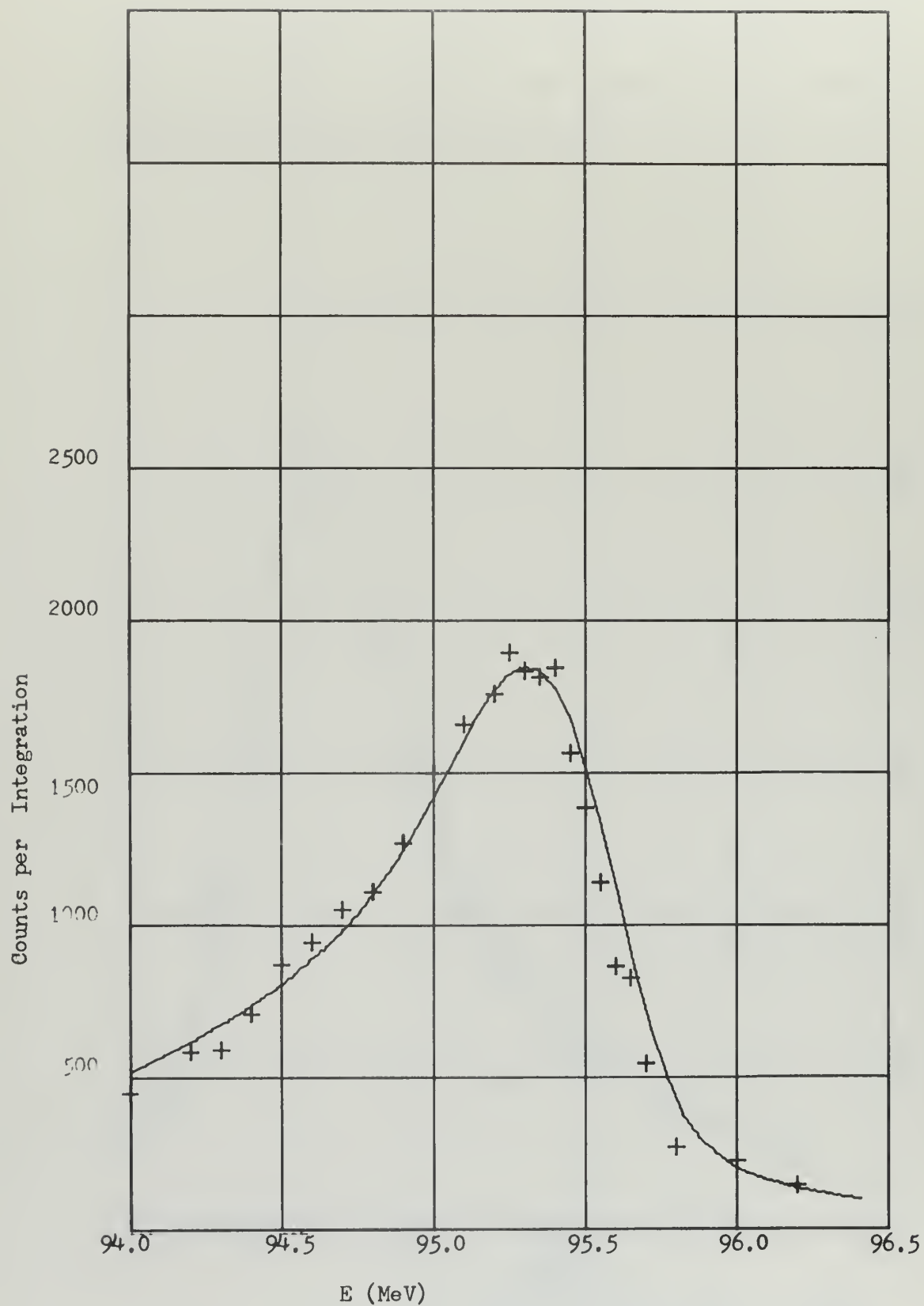


Figure 6. Predicted Distribution, Al
 $t = 1.441 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 96.93 \text{ MeV}$

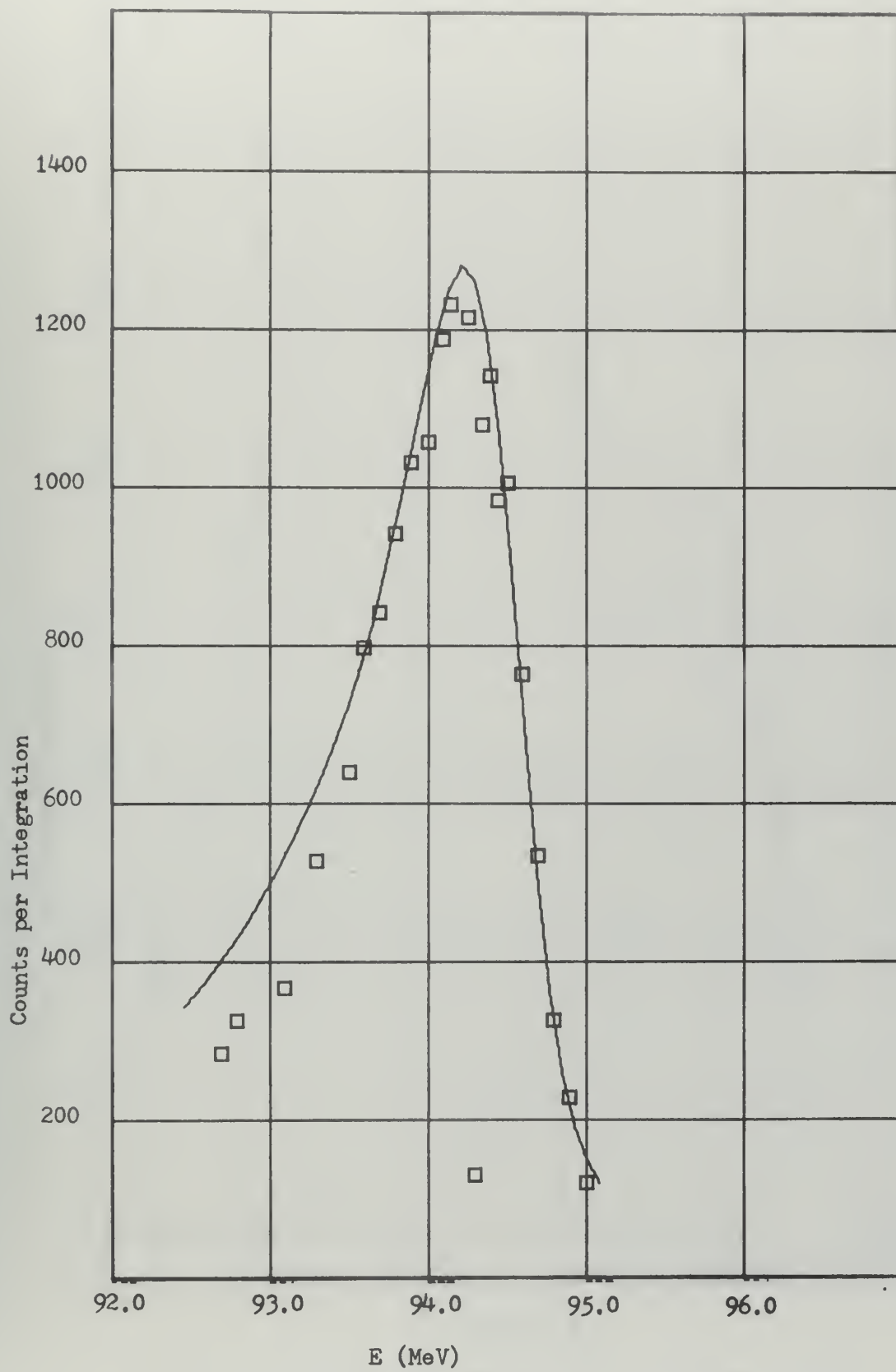


Figure 7. Predicted Distribution, Al
 $t = 2.146 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 96.93 \text{ MeV}$

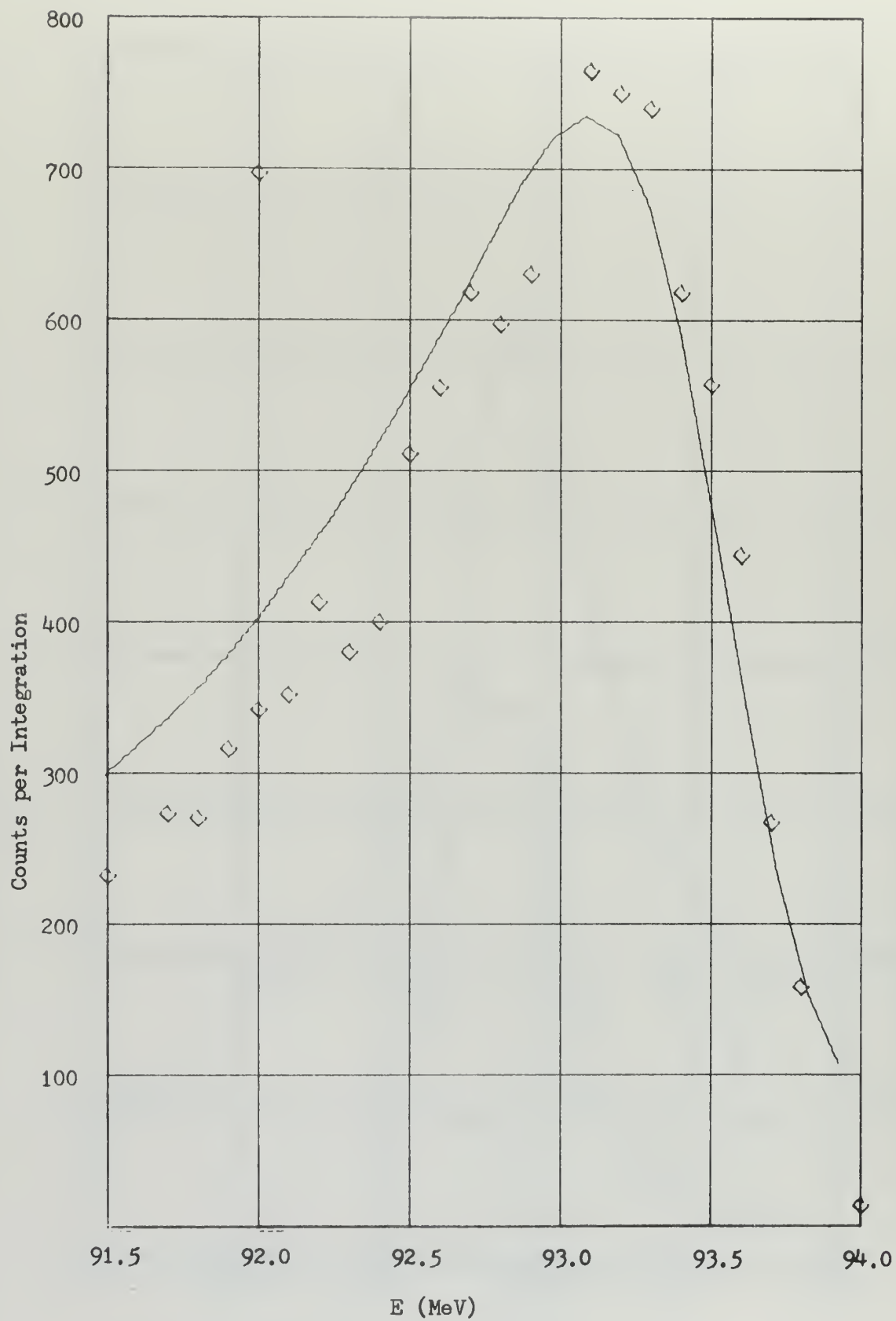


Figure 8. Predicted Distribution Al
 $t = 2.859 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 96.93 \text{ MeV}$

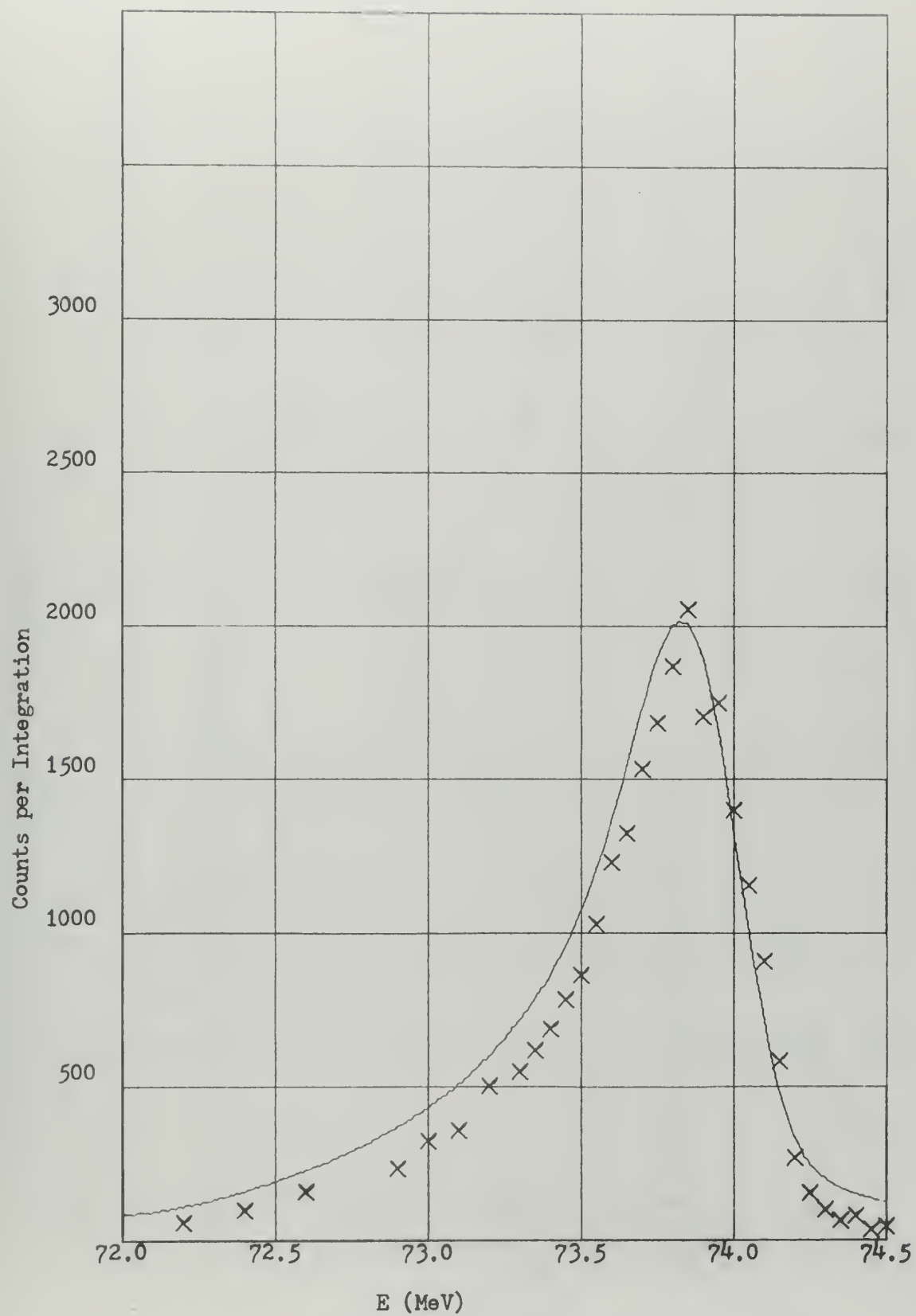


Figure 9. Predicted Distribution, Al
 $t=0.730 \text{ MeV gm/cm}^2$ $E_i=74.63 \text{ MeV}$

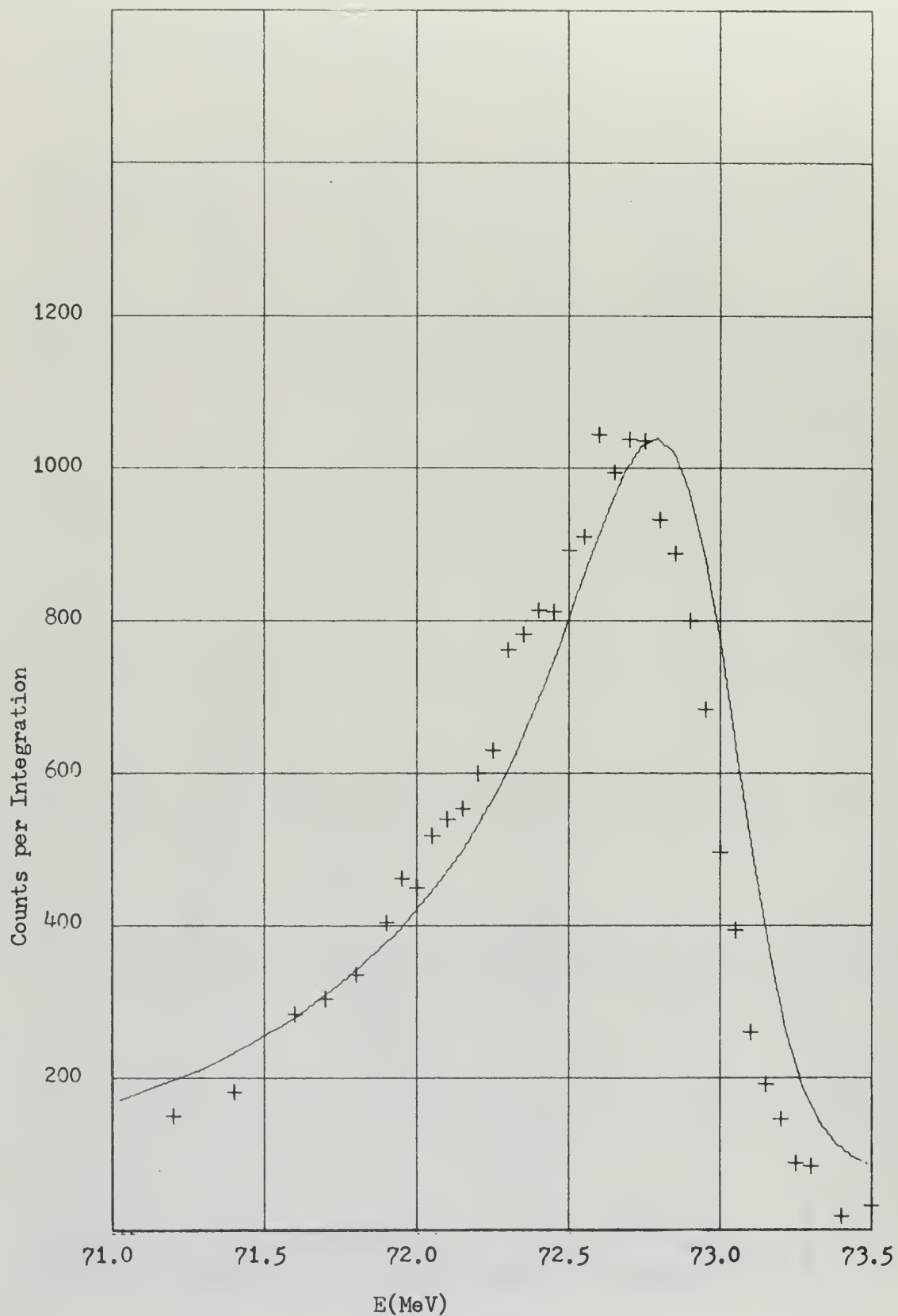


Figure 10. Predicted Distribution, Al
 $t = 1.441 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 74.63 \text{ MeV}$

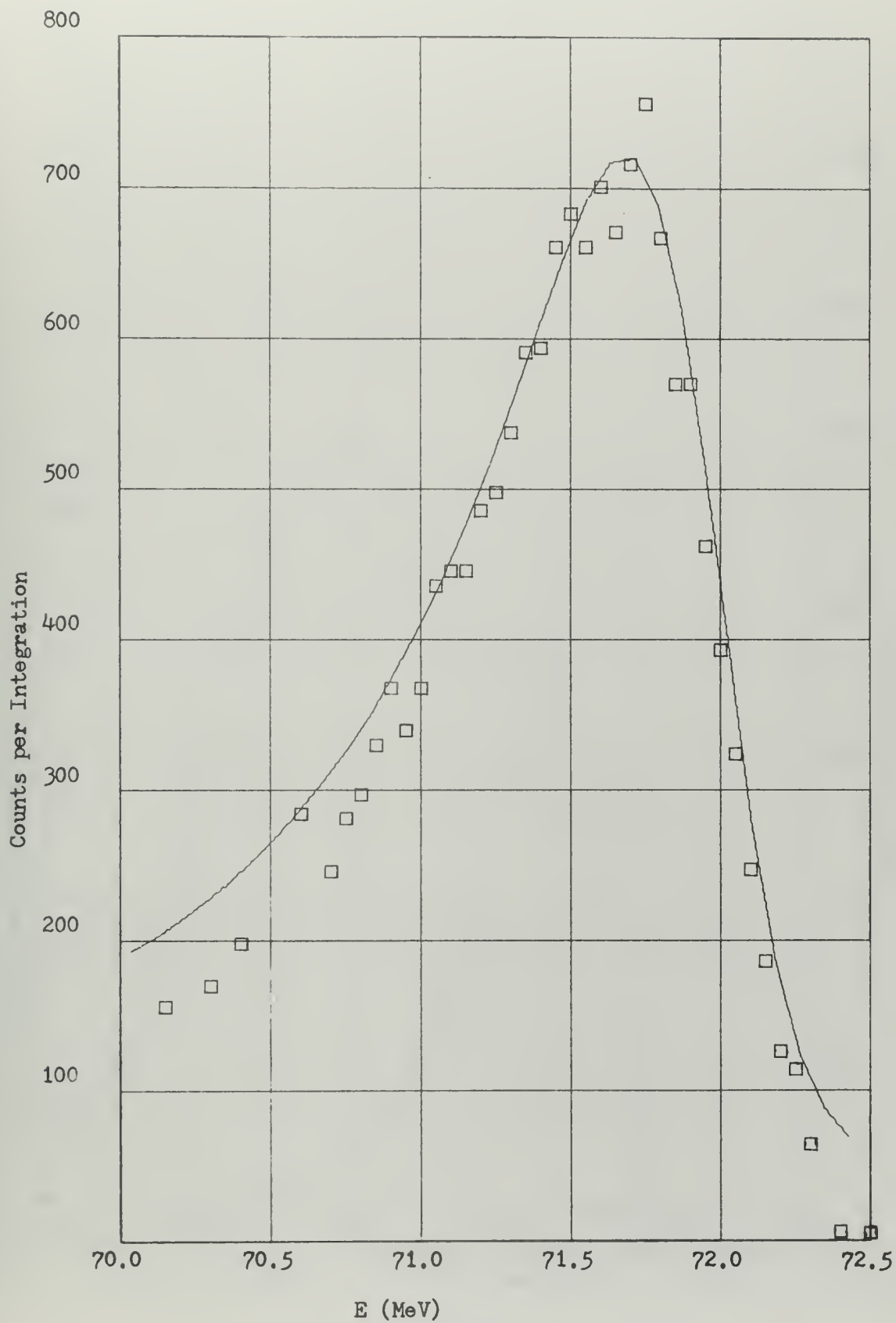


Figure 11. Predicted Distribution, Al
 $t = 2.146 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 74.63 \text{ MeV}$

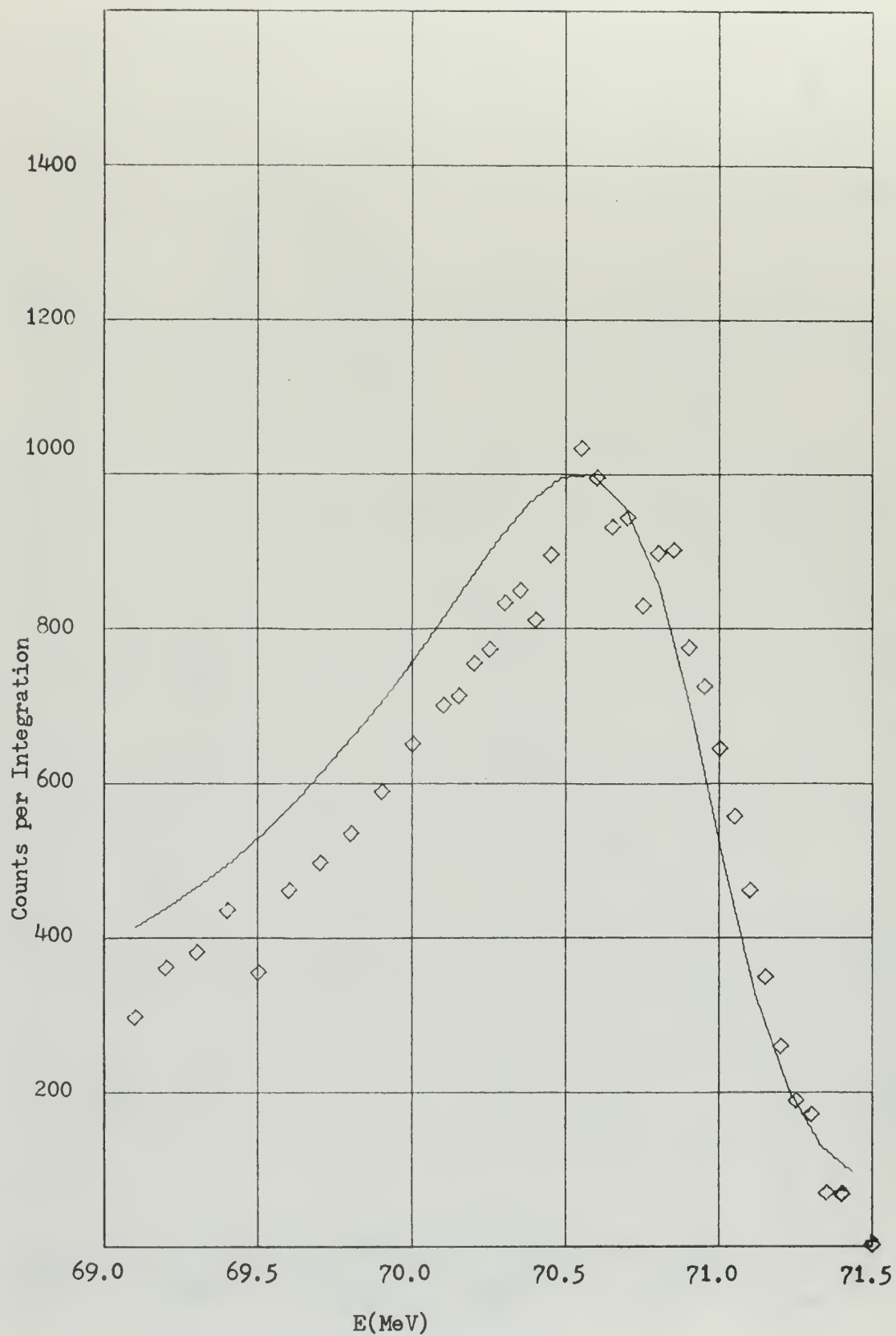


Figure 12. Predicted Distribution, Al
 $t = 2.859 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 74.63 \text{ MeV}$

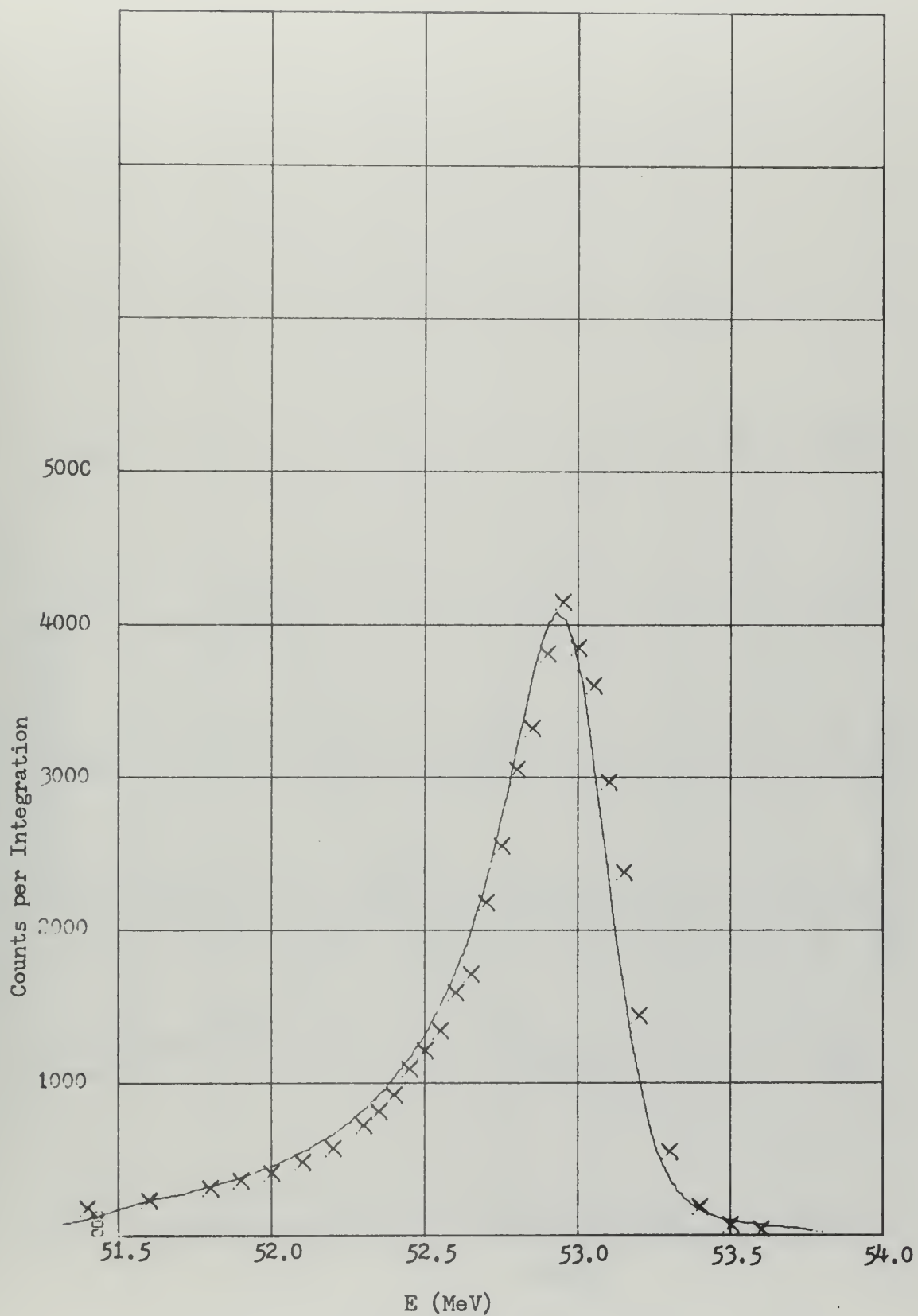


Figure 13. Predicted Distribution, Al
 $t = 0.730 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 53.57 \text{ MeV}$

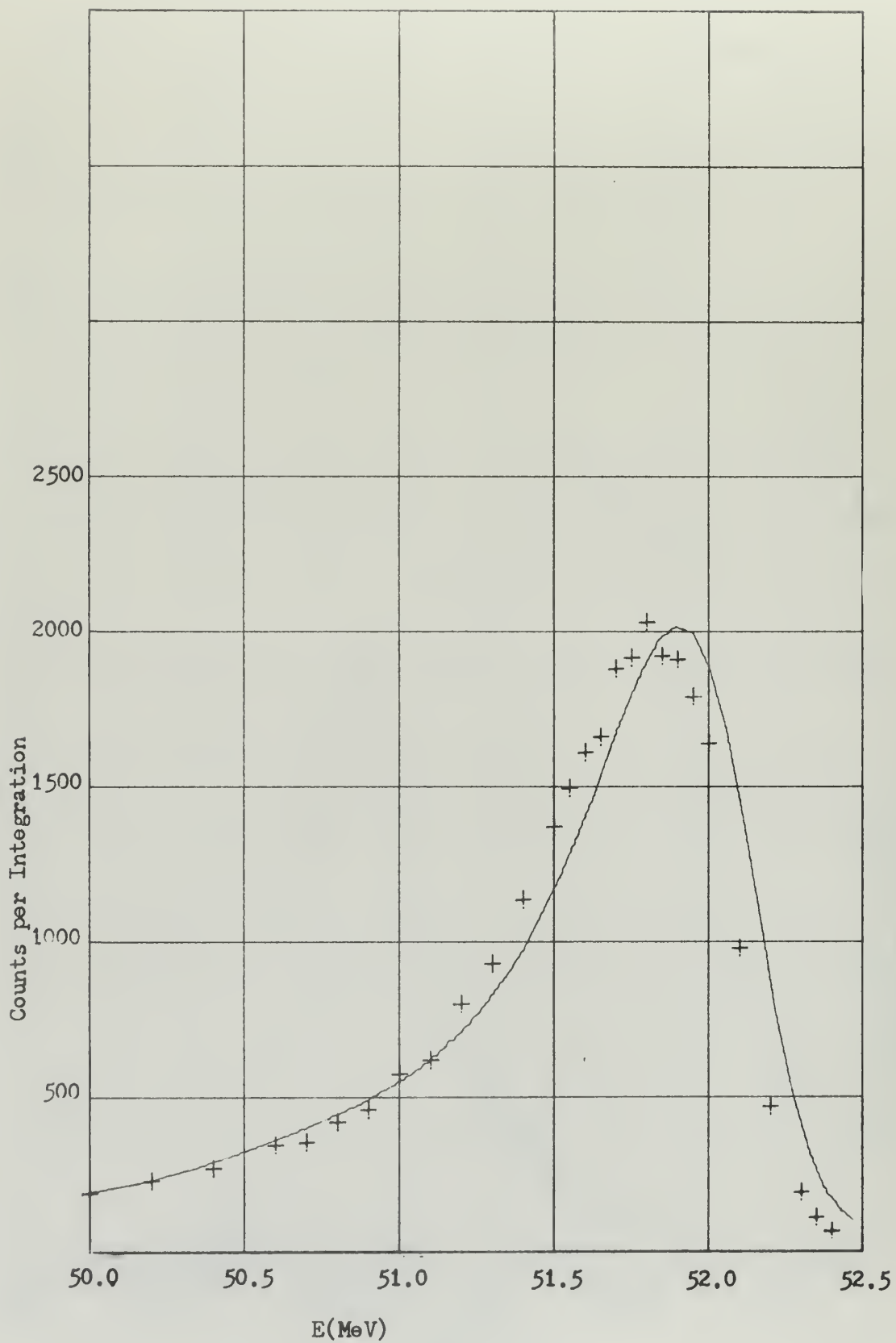


Figure 14. Predicted Distribution, Al
 $t = 1.441 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 53.57 \text{ MeV}$

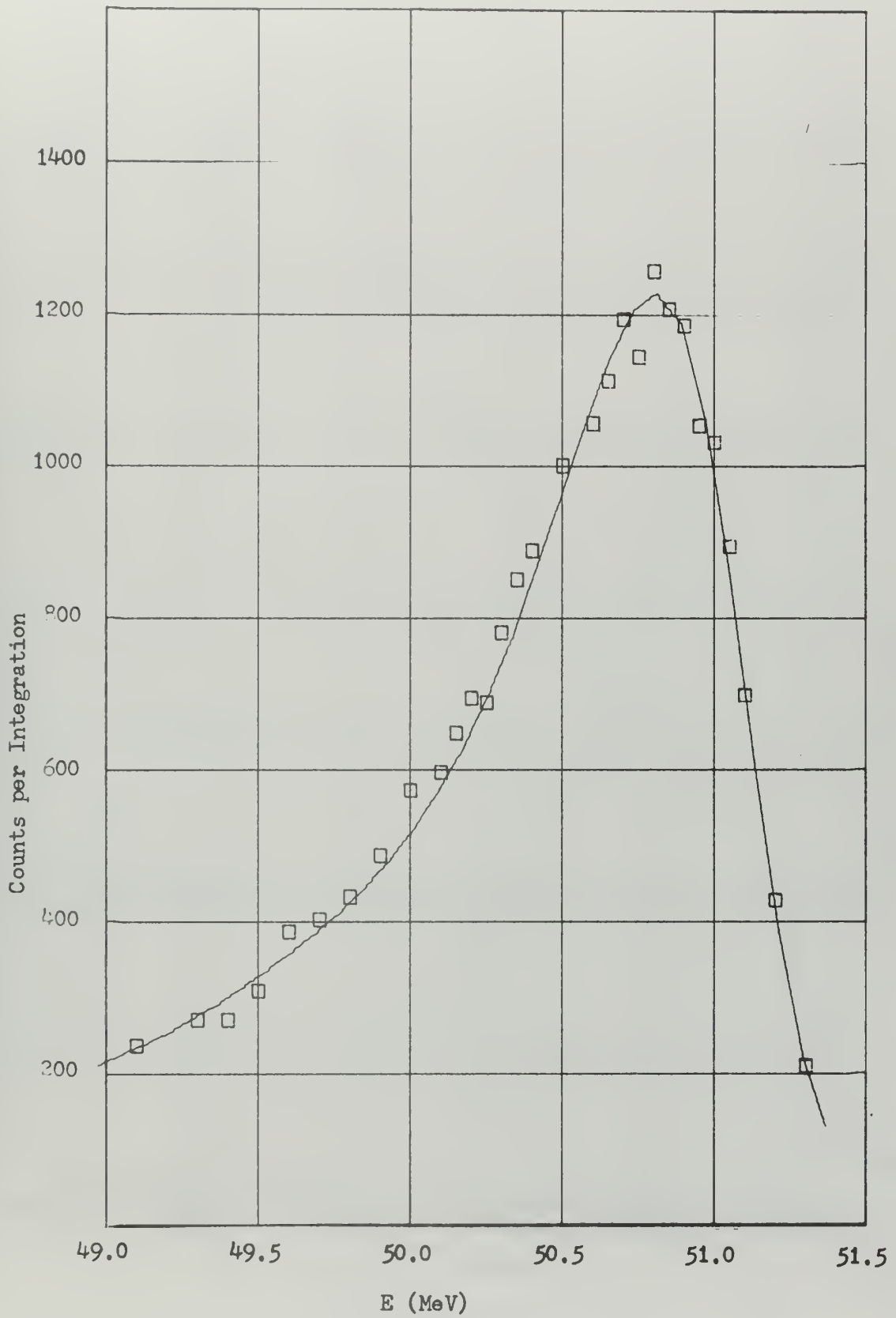


Figure 15. Predicted Distribution, Al
 $t = 2.146 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 53.57 \text{ MeV}$

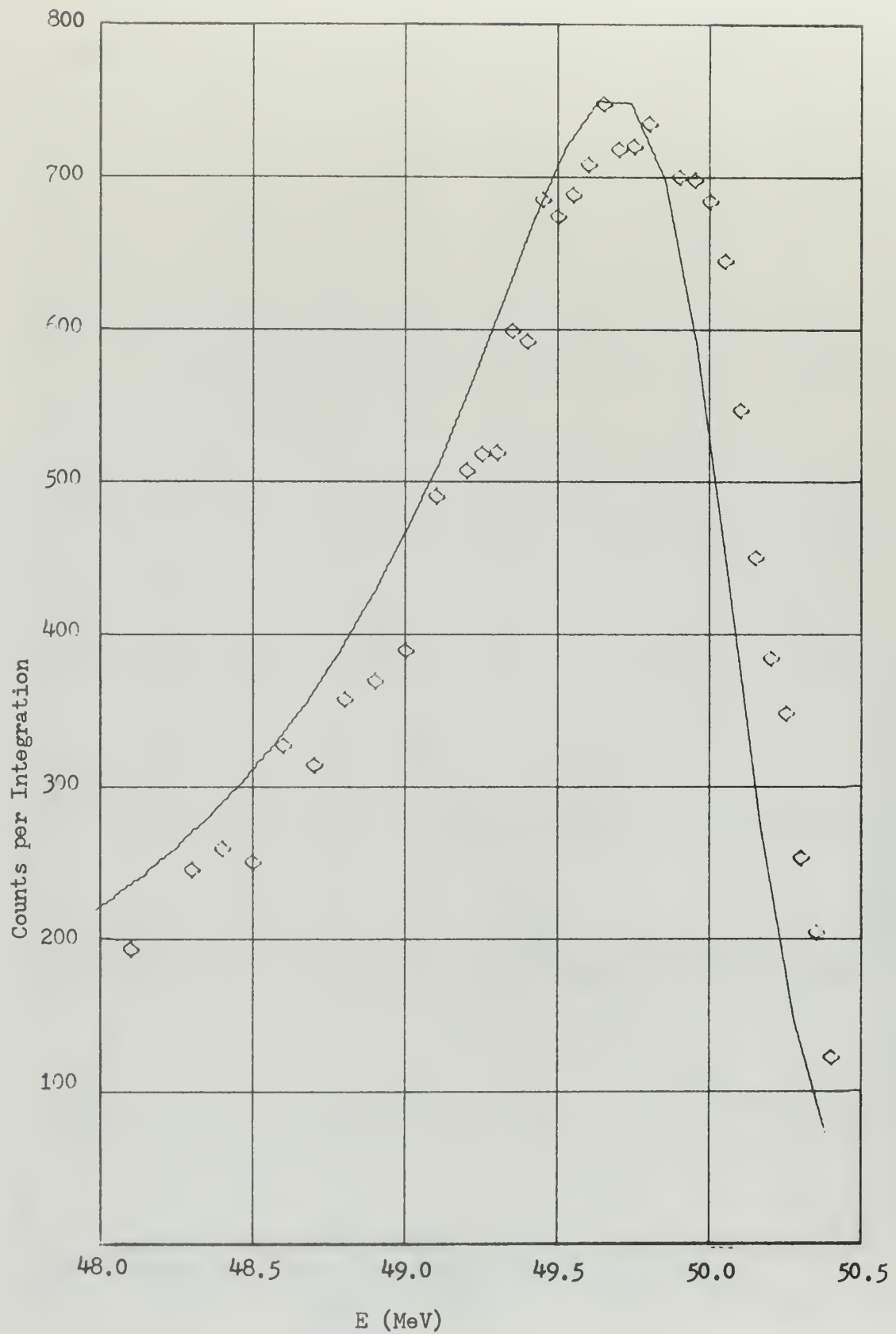


Figure 16. Predicted Distribution, Al
 $t = 2.859 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 53.57 \text{ MeV}$

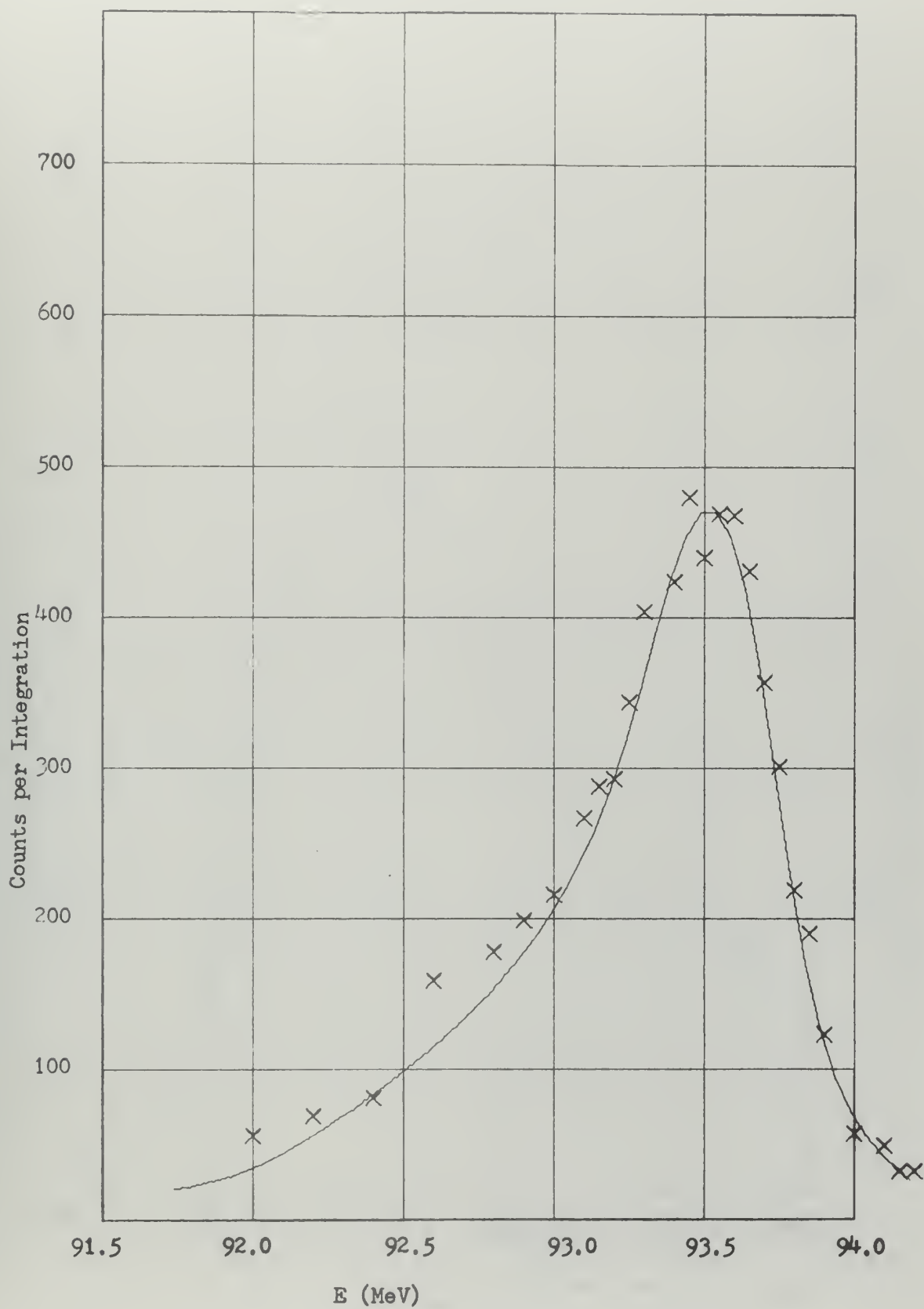


Figure 17. Predicted Distribution, Cu
 $t = 0.711 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_1 = 94.30 \text{ MeV}$

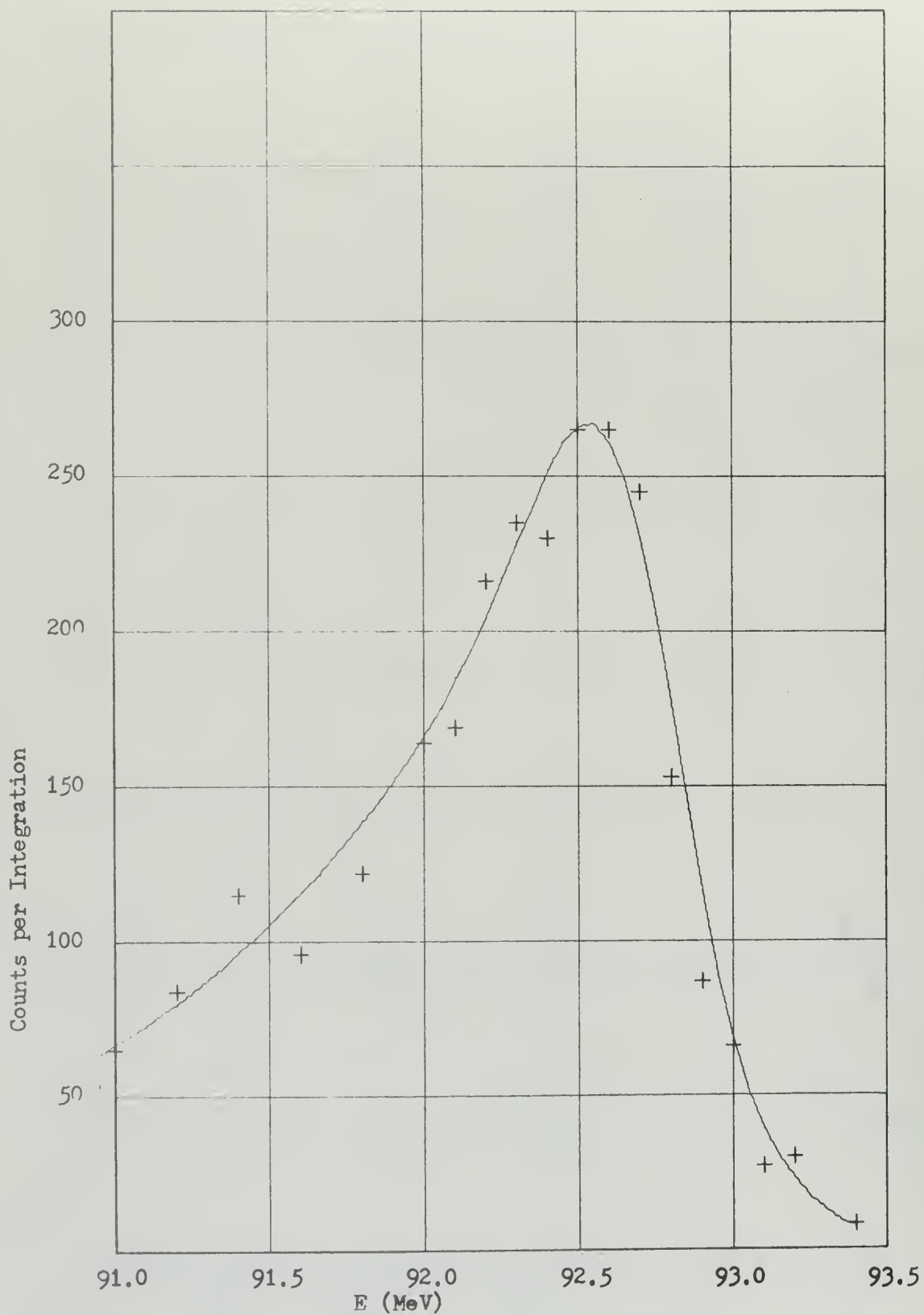


Figure 18. Predicted Distribution, Cu
 $t = 1.423 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 94.30 \text{ MeV}$

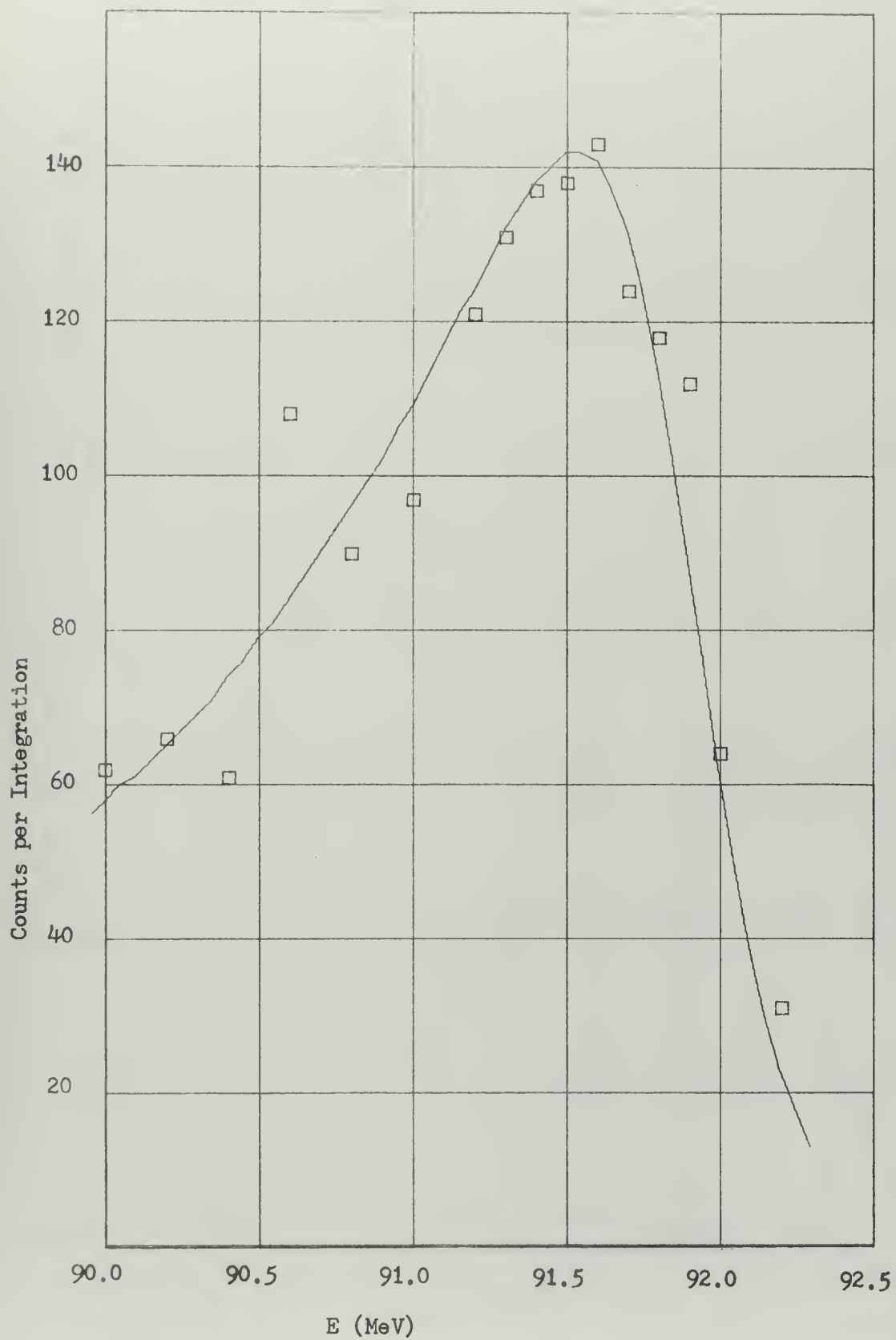


Figure 19. Predicted Distribution, Cu
 $t = 2.134 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 94.30 \text{ MeV}$

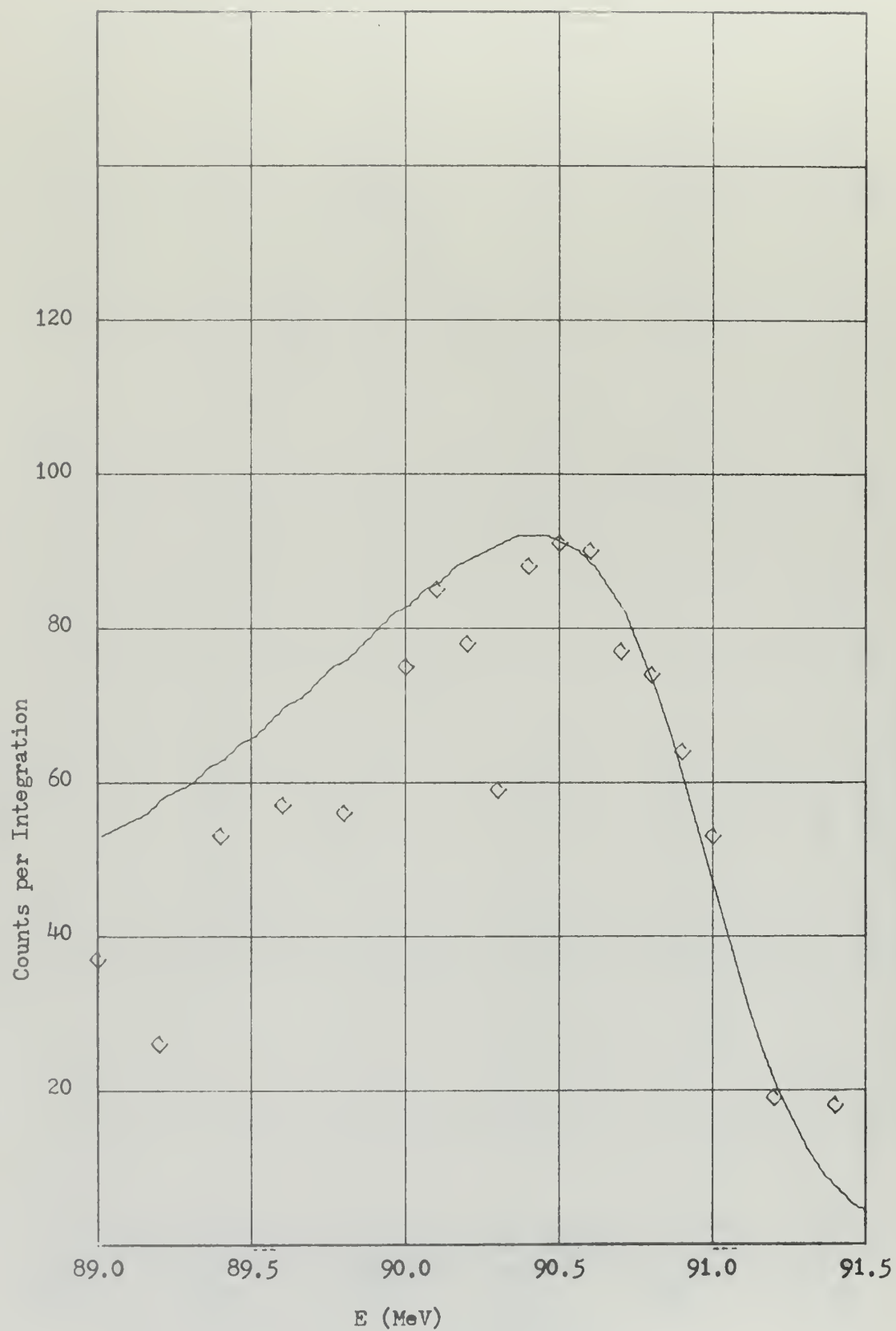


Figure 20. Predicted Distribution, Cu
 $t = 2.845 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 94.30 \text{ MeV}$

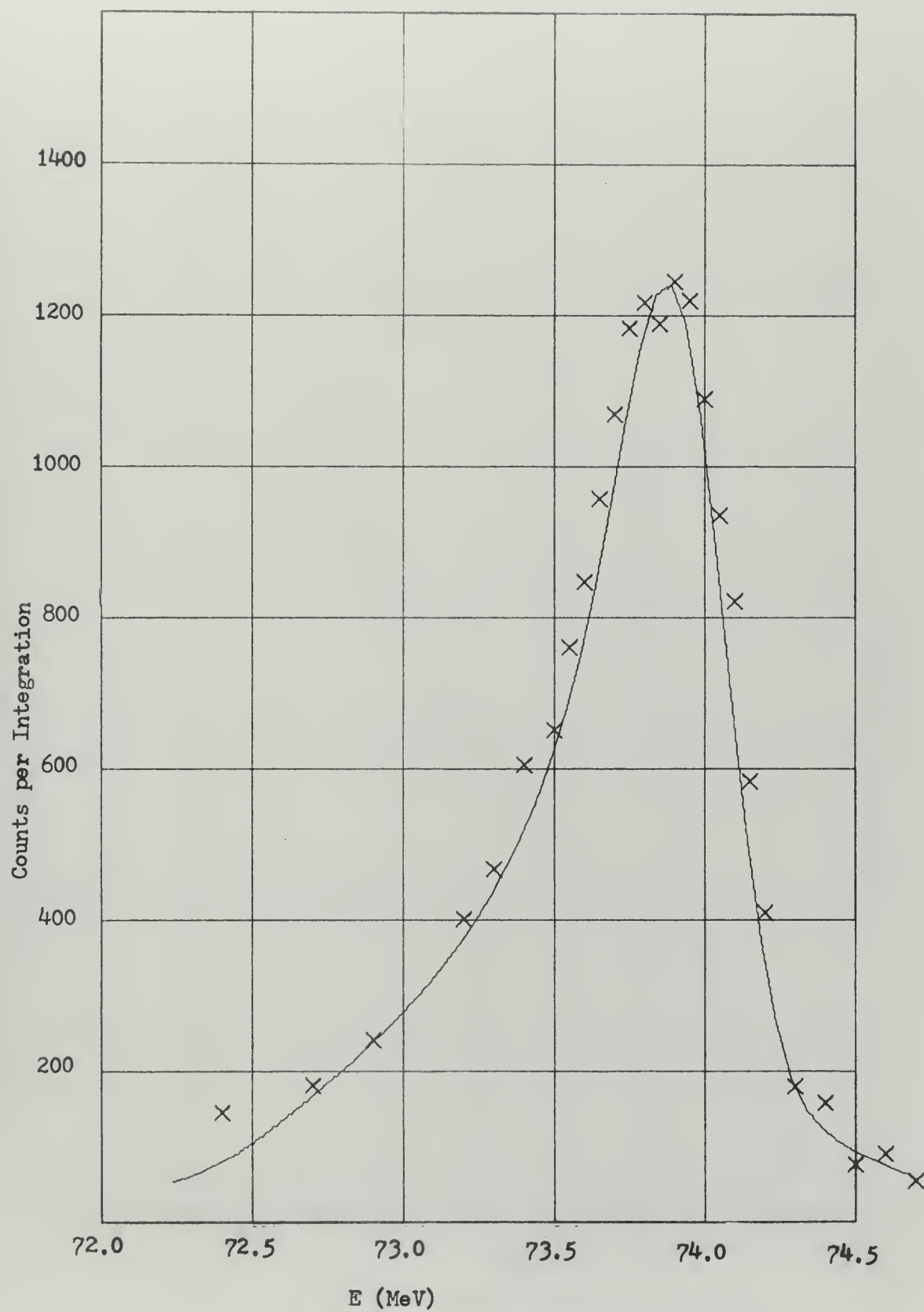


Figure 21. Predicted Distribution, Cu
 $t = 0.711 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 74.76 \text{ MeV}$

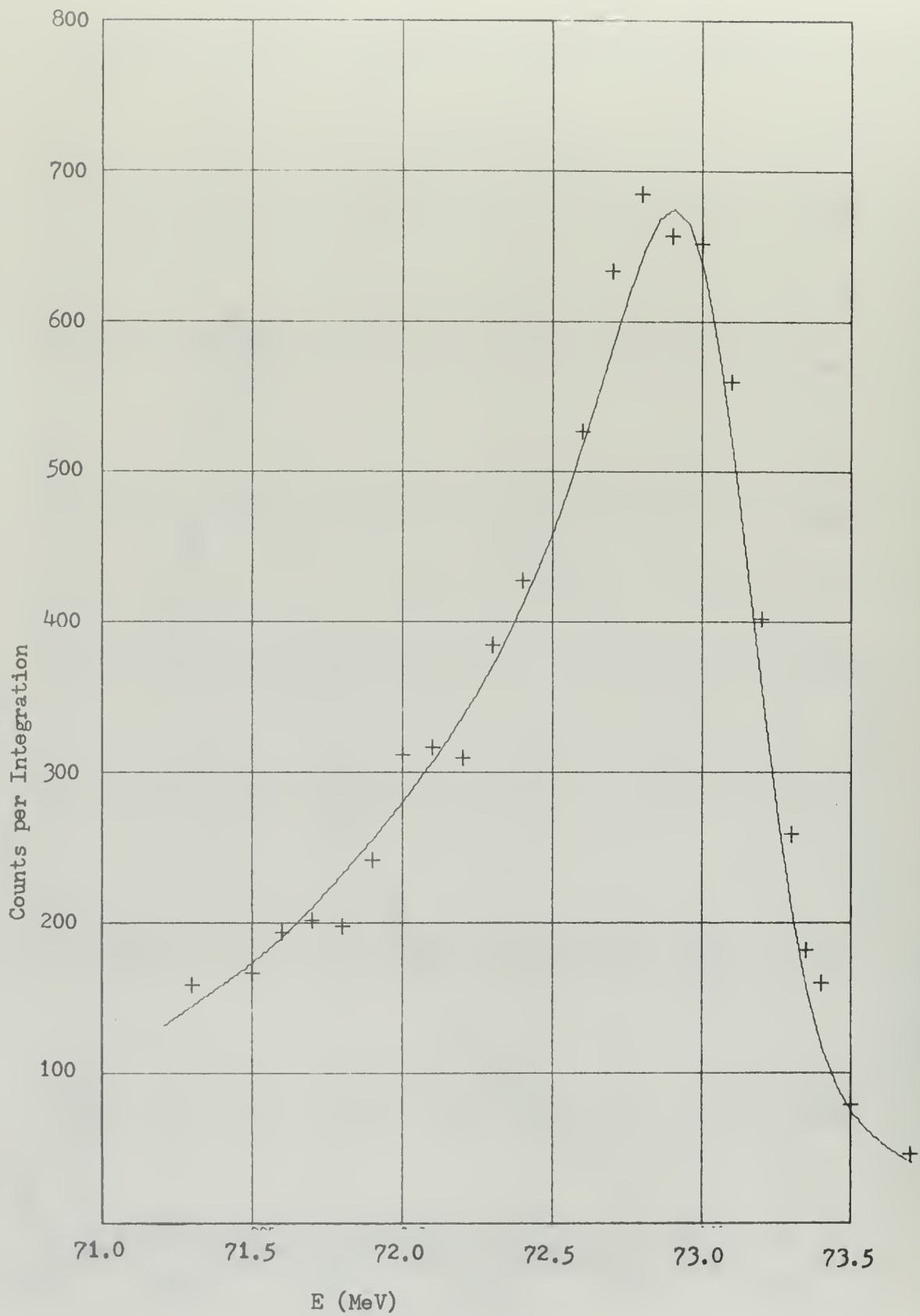


Figure 22. Predicted Distribution Cu
 $t = 1.423 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 74.76 \text{ MeV}$

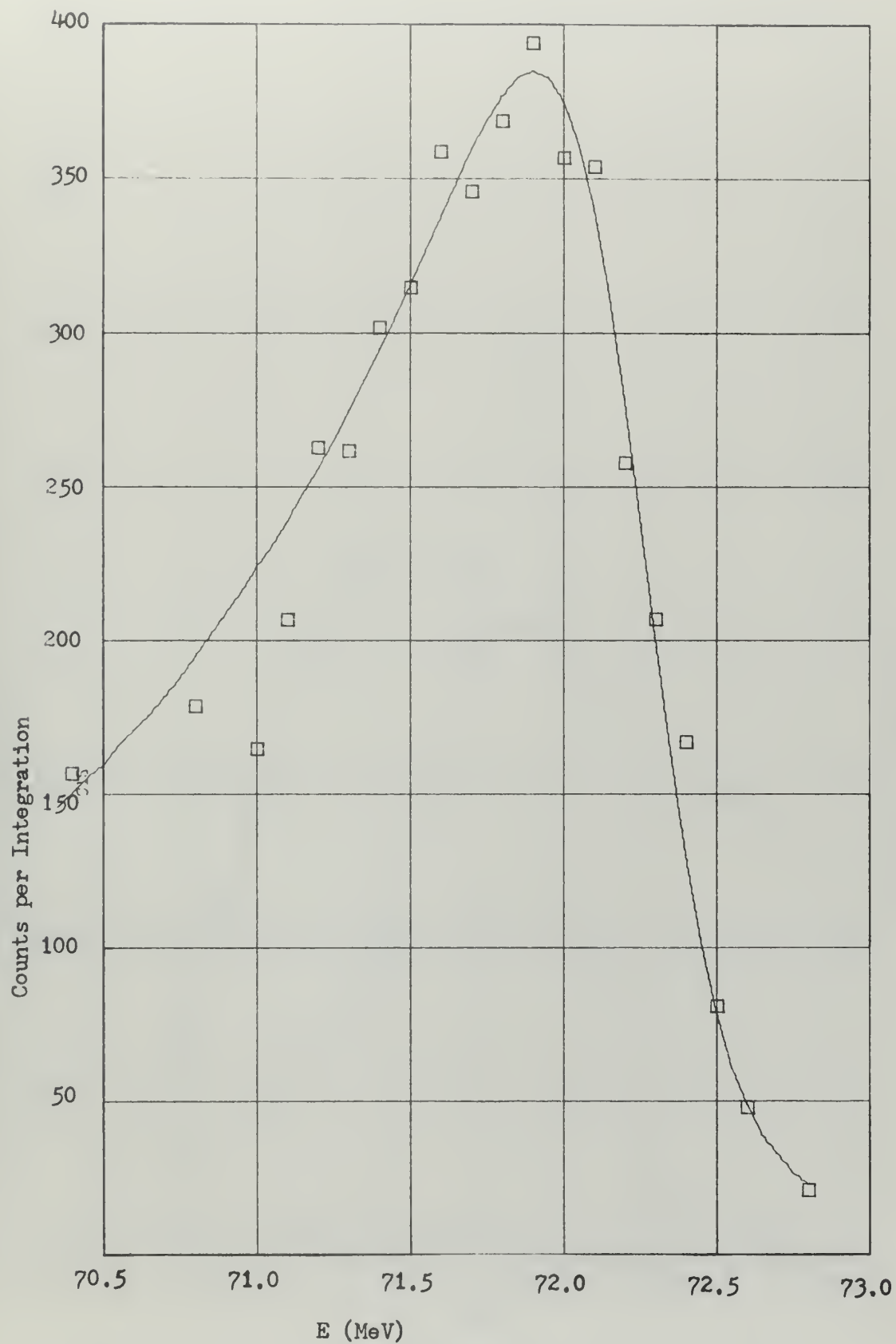


Figure 23. Predicted Distribution, Cu
 $t = 2.134 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 74.76 \text{ MeV}$

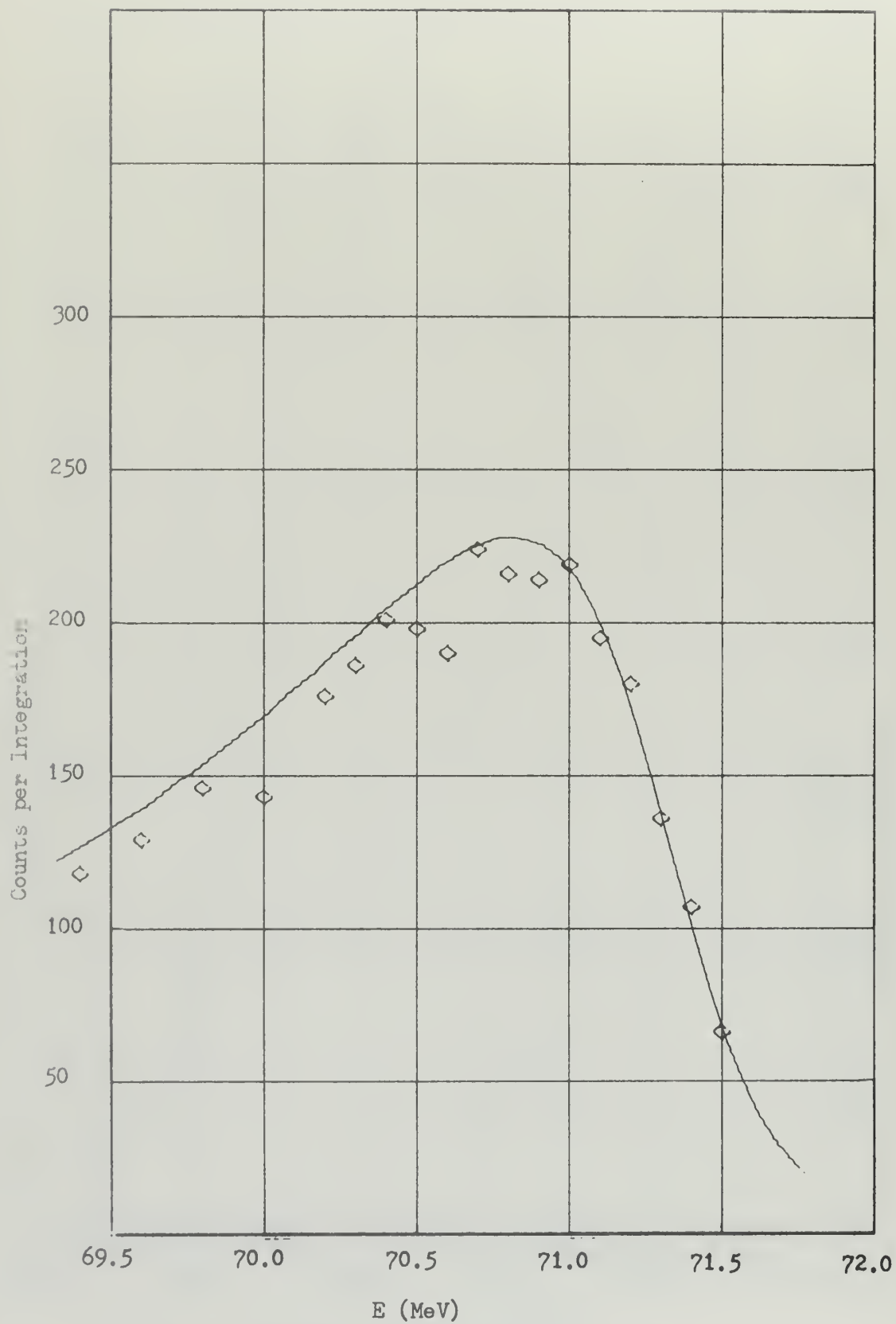


Figure 24. Predicted Distribution, Cu
 $t = 2.845 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 74.76 \text{ MeV}$

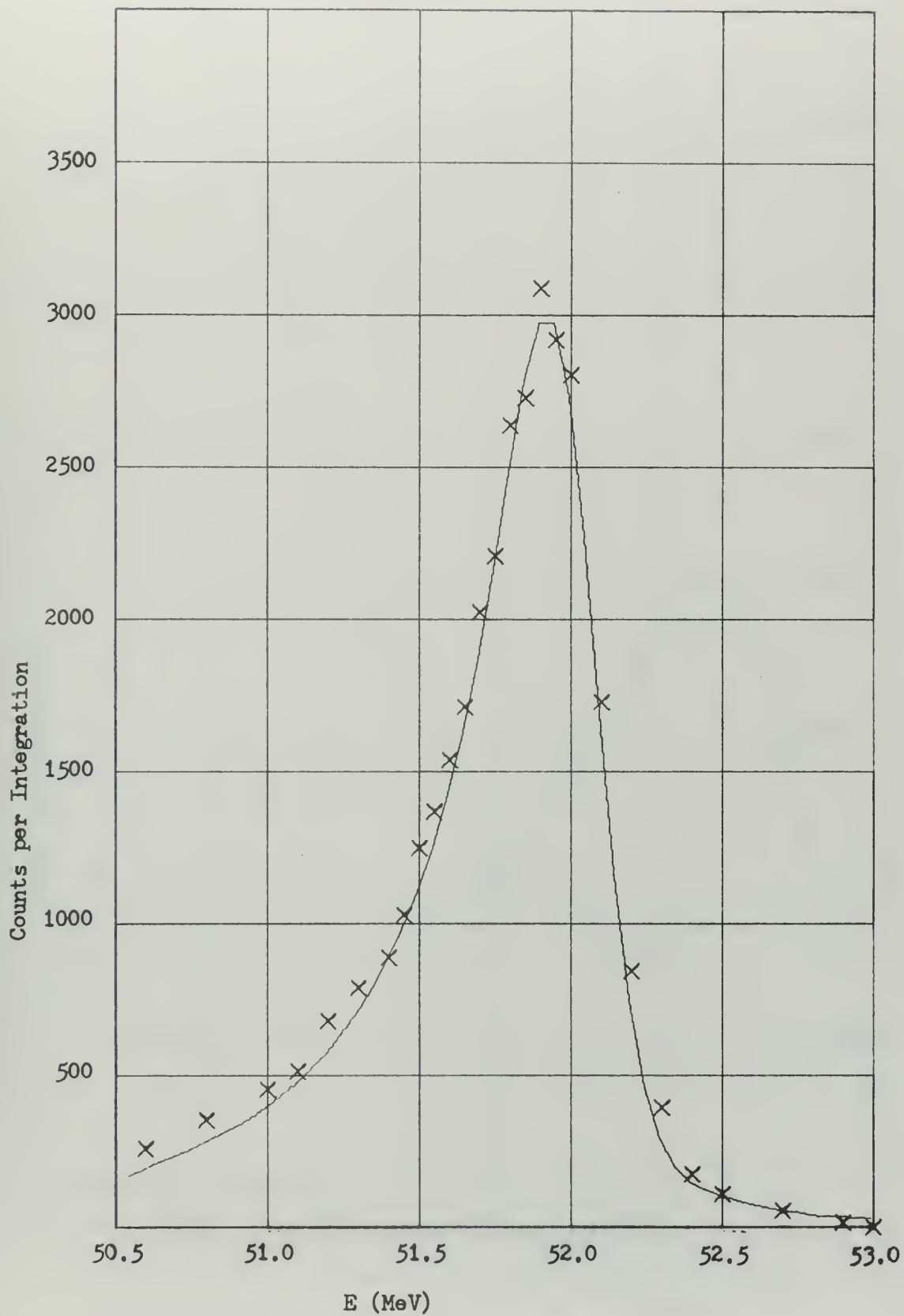


Figure 25. Predicted Distribution, Cu
 $t = 0.711 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 52.84 \text{ MeV}$

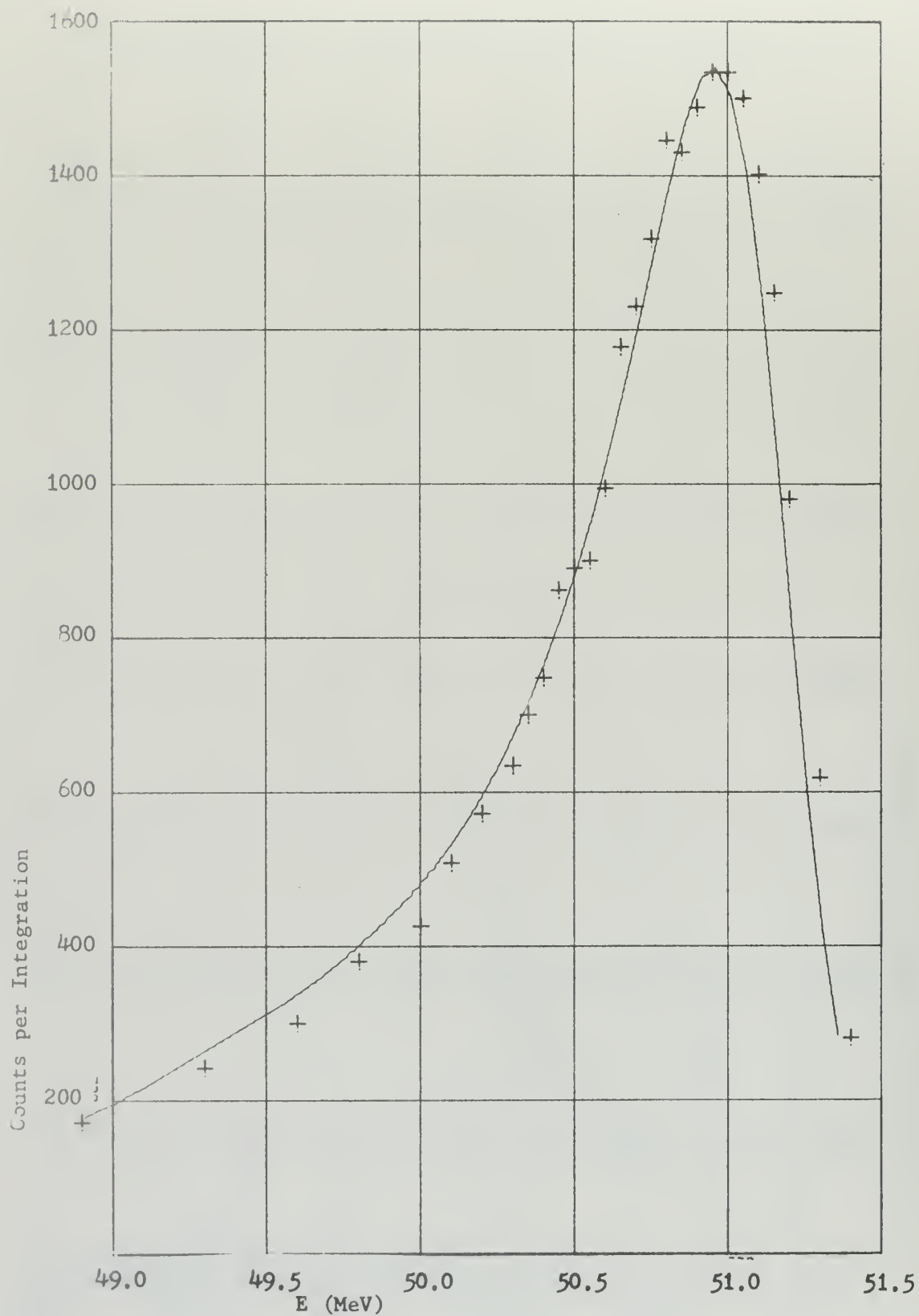


Figure 26. Predicted Distribution, Cu
 $t = 1.423 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 52.84 \text{ MeV}$

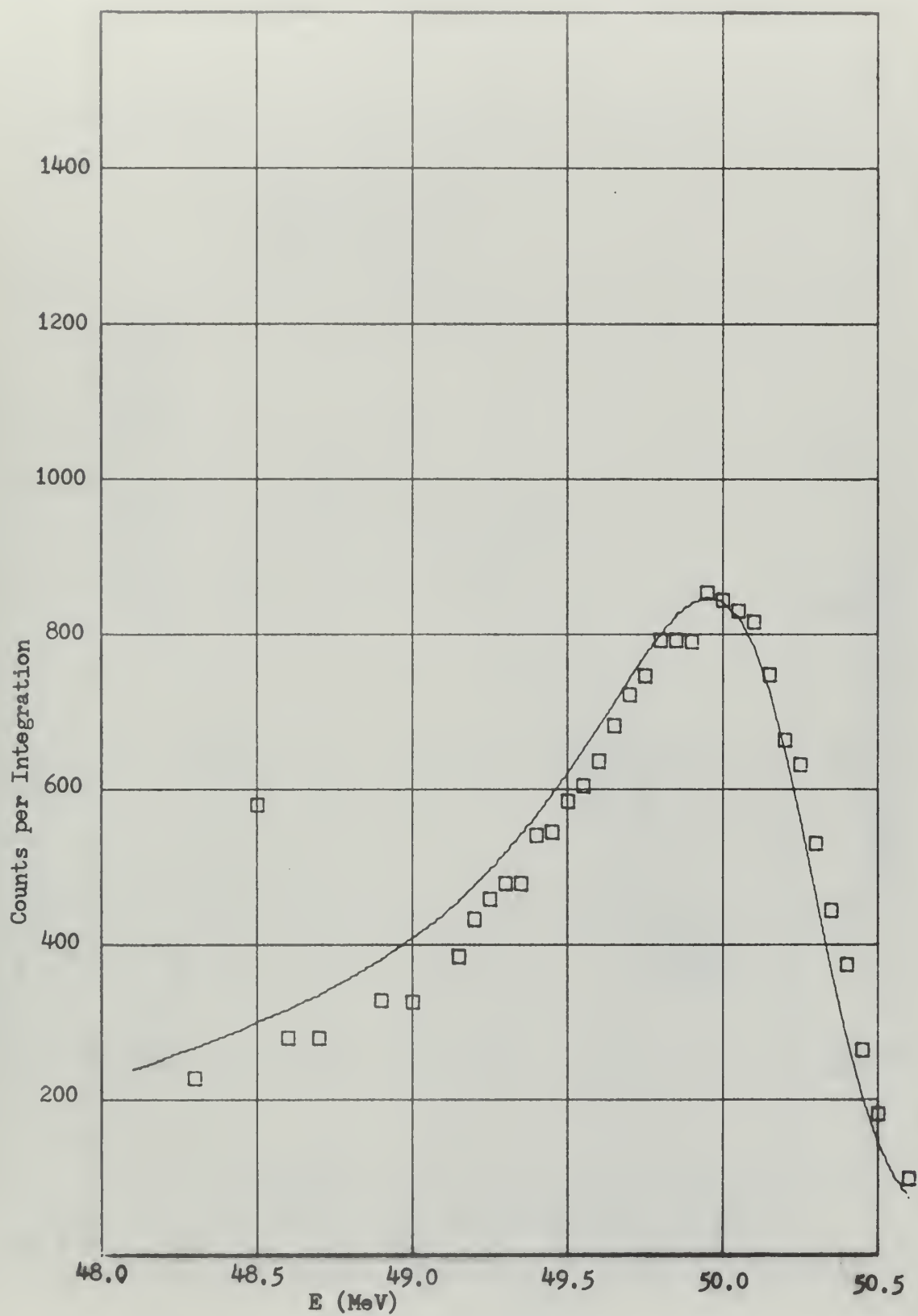


Figure 27. Predicted Distribution , Cu
 $t = 2.134 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_i = 52.84 \text{ MeV}$

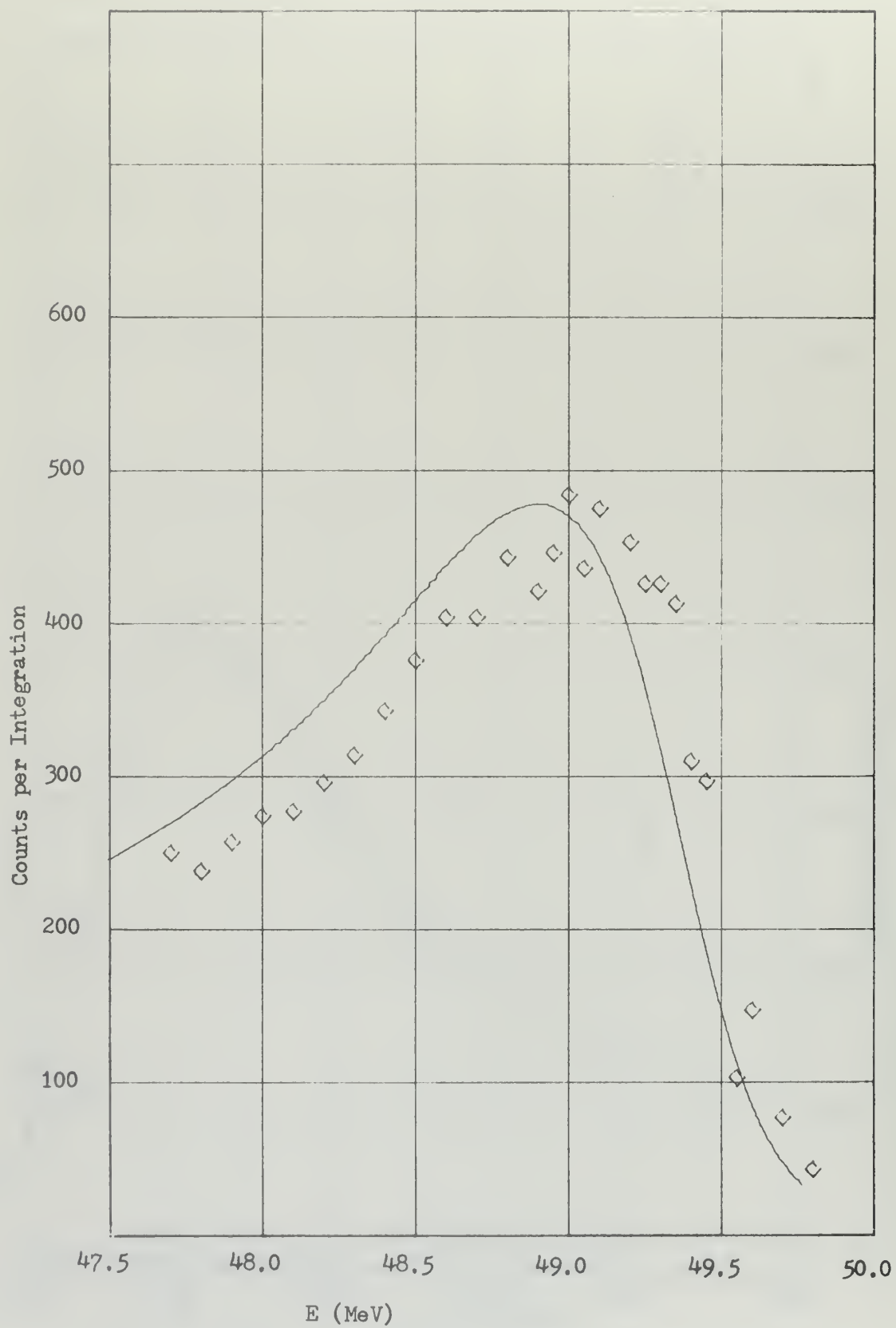


Figure 28. Predicted Distribution, Cu
 $t = 2.845 \text{ gm/cm}^2$ $E_1 = 52.84 \text{ MeV}$

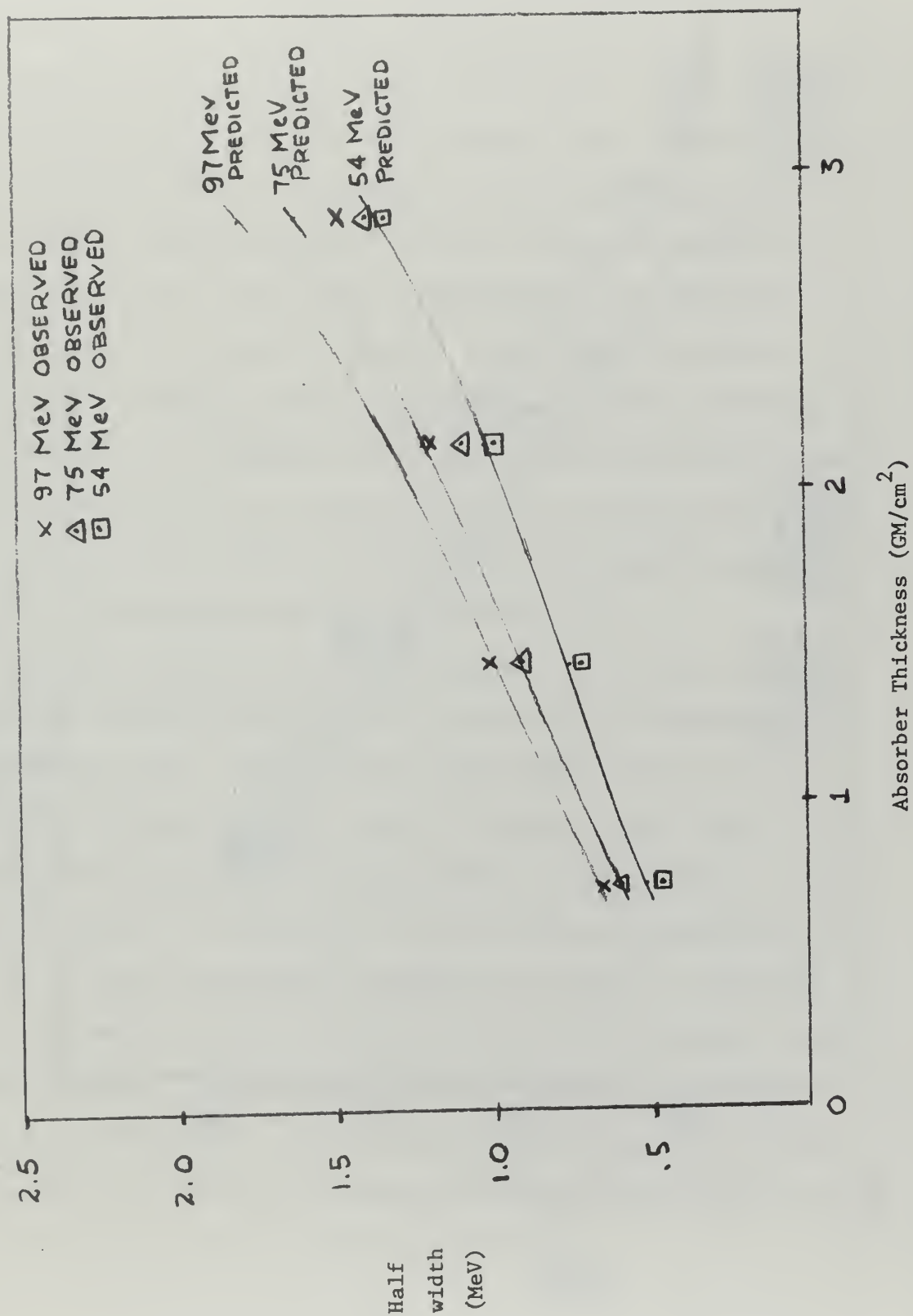


FIGURE 29. Predicted and Observed Half Widths (Aluminum)

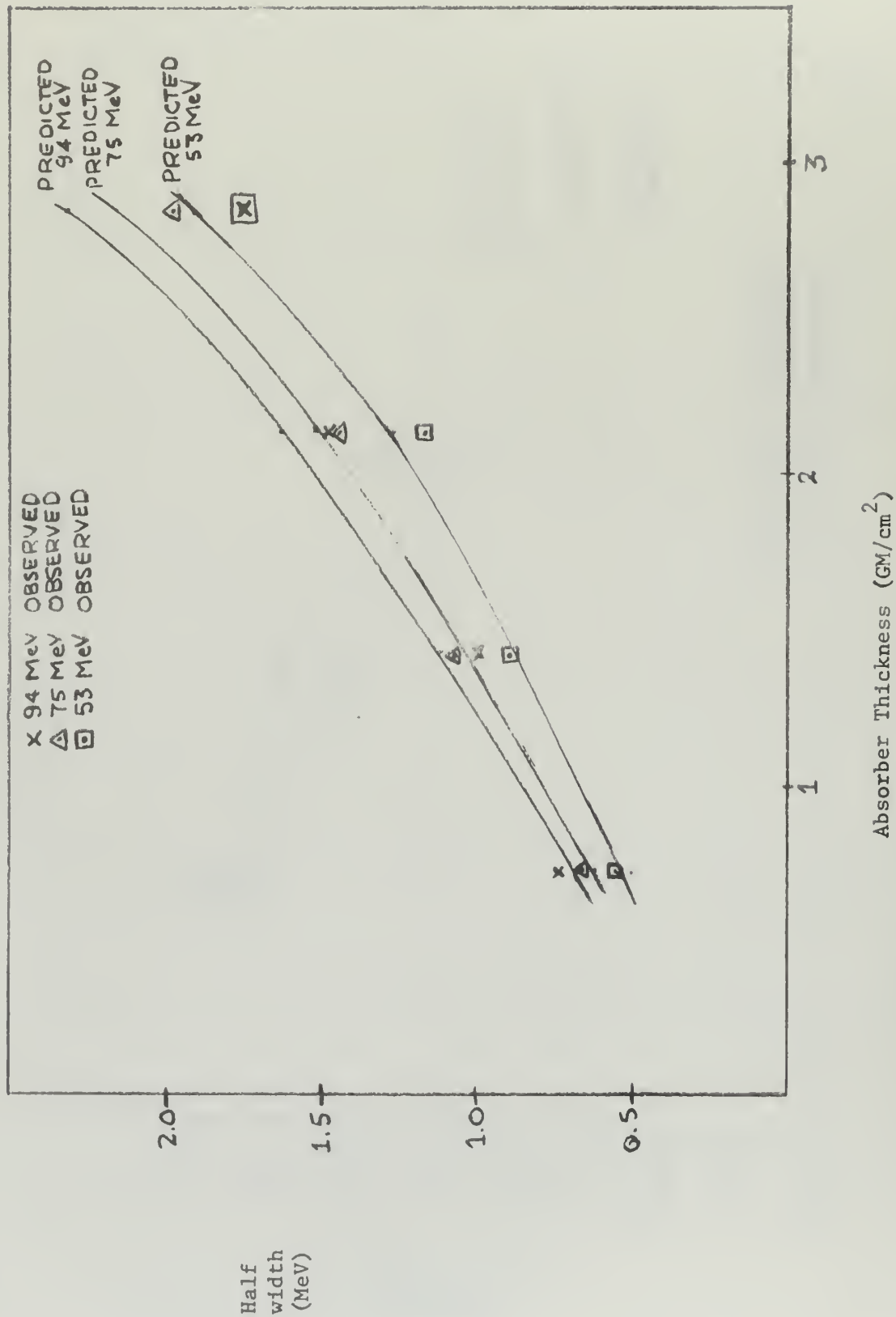


FIGURE 30. Predicted and Observed Half Widths (Copper)

VI. DISCUSSION

An attempt was made to match absorber thicknesses and energies with Miller's work. The thinnest absorber here was to have been the same as Miller's second thinnest (0.730 versus 0.711 gm/cm^2); the next the same as Miller's fourth thickest (1.441 versus 1.522), etc. The differences can be explained by the inaccuracies in machining the absorbers, and the fact that a different density for aluminum was used. Miller used the tabulated value, 2.69 gms/cm^3 . The supplier of the aluminum indicates an approximate density of 2.66 gm/cm^3 . Weighing a sample then measuring it with a micrometer yielded 2.66, as did weighing another sample and measuring the volume of water displaced by it. Hence the value of the density of aluminum used was 2.66 gm/cm^3 . The density of the copper samples was measured by the last two methods and found to be 8.89 gm/cm^3 .

Generally speaking the results agree with the theory of Blunck & Westphal, indicating that both the theory and the experimental technique are good. They also agree substantially with the results obtained by Miller for energy loss. For instance Miller found at 53.7 MeV and $t = 0.711$ an energy loss of $1.05 \pm .07$, here we find $1.03 \pm .03$ at 53.57 MeV and $t = 0.730 \text{ gm/cm}^2$. Breuer obtains approximately 1 MeV loss at 53.6 MeV with absorber thickness = 0.73 gm/cm^2 . (He states $\Delta E_p = 1.36 \text{ MeV/gm cm}^{-2}$) but indicates that with higher energies and thicker absorbers his experimental results diverge by increasing amounts from the theory. The conclusions to be drawn from the present results tend to confirm B & W theory and indicate that Miller is correct in his assertion that Breuer misinterpreted it.

Variation from the B & W predictions tend to be larger with thicker absorbers. Not only is the theory weaker in these regions (energy losses are larger compared to incident energy), but also the observed values are most inaccurate. The peaks are broad and not well defined. The percentage error increases as the number of counts decreases; and only by counting for a prohibitively long time can it be significantly improved; and this would be nullified to some extent by drift in the operating characteristics of the LINAC. The background is a larger fraction of the total number of counts observed, and errors made in determining the proper background are more significant. But still with all of these effects, the experiment and theory agree.

Positioning the absorber close to the scattering foil has obviated collimating the electrons leaving the absorber. This was attempted by placing a lead brick with a hole drilled in it in front of the spectrometer entrance, and the net effect was an unacceptable increase in the background with no commensurate increase in energy resolution.

Further work in this field at the NPGS LINAC is indicated, using different materials as absorbers. One would expect to find further confirmation of the B & W theory.

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APPENDIX A. Derivation of Expression for Recoil Energy. (90° scattering).

E_e = Incident electron energy

E_e' = final electron energy

M = rest mass of the struck nucleus

E_a = final energy of the struck nucleus

From conservation of mass and momentum:

$$E_e + M = E_e' + E_a \quad \text{and} \quad p^2 = p_e^2 + p_e'^2$$

from these we find:

$$E_e' = (E_e + M - E_a)$$

$$E_e'^2 = (E_e + M - E_a)^2$$

$$E_e'^2 = (E_e^2 + M^2 + E_a^2 + 2E_e M - 2E_e E_a - 2E_e E_a)$$

The term E_a^2 will be neglected because it is second order in E_a ,

which is small compared to E_e and M .

$$E_e'^2 = E_e^2 + M^2 + 2E_e M - 2E_e E_a - 2E_e E_a.$$

Similarly p is small compared to p_e and p_e' so we neglect p^2 .

$$p_e'^2 = p_e^2$$

$$m^2 = M^2 + p_e^2 + E_e'^2$$

$$m^2 = M^2 + p_e^2 + E_e^2 + M^2 + 2E_e M - 2E_e (M - E_e)$$

from which

$$E_a = \frac{M^2 + p_e^2 + E_e^2 + M^2 + 2E_e M}{2(M + E_e)}$$

$$T_a = \frac{2M^2 + p_e^2 + E_e^2 + 2E_e M}{2(M + E_e)} - M$$

$$T_a = \frac{2M^2 + p_e^2 + E_e^2 + 2E_e M - 2M^2 - 2E_e M}{2(M + E_e)}$$

$$T_a = \frac{p_e^2 + E_e^2}{2(M + E_e)} = \frac{p_e^2 + p_e^2 + m^2}{2(M + E_e)} = \frac{2p_e^2 + m^2}{2(M + E_e)}$$

here m^2 is small compared to the other terms.

$$T_a = \frac{p_e^2}{(M + E_e)} \quad (\text{within approximations noted}).$$

APPENDIX B. Computer Program for Counting Rate Corrections
(Miller's method)

```

C      PROGRAM TO CORRECT COUNTING DATA FOR HIGH COUNTING RATE.
      DIMENSION E(150),EN(6,150),T(6,150),N(6,150),ZUM(6),BKGD(6)
      READ (5,99) M
      95  FORMAT (5,I3)
      1  READ (5,100) (E(J),EN(1,J),T(1,J),EN(2,J),T(2,J),EN(3,J),T(3,J),
      100  EN(4,J),T(4,J),EN(5,J),T(5,J),EN(6,J),T(6,J), J=1,M)
      101  FORMAT (13F5.0)
      101  READ (5,101) BKNR,(ZUM(I),I=1,6),FACT
      101  FORMAT (8F5.0)
      101  ZUM IS A FACTOR TO ADJUST THE BACKGROUND TO COMPENSATE FOR DIFFERE
      101  CHARGE INTEGRATIONS WITH DIFFERENT ABSORBERS.
      DO 200 J=1,M
      DO 201 I=1,6
      201  N(I,J)=ZUM(I)*BKNR
      1-BKGD(I)
      200  CONTINUE
      400  WRITE (6,400) 72HENRGY 0 1 2 3
      1  WRITE (6,300) (E(J),N(1,J),N(2,J),N(3,J),N(4,J),N(5,J),N(6,J),
      1  J=1,M)
      300  FORMAT (F10.3,6I10)
      DO 90 LK=1,6
      DO 80 LS=1,M
      80  WRITE (7,900) E(LS),N(LK,LS)
      90  CONTINUE
      900  FORMAT( ,F7.3,6X,I5)
      STOP
      END

```

Appendix C. Computer Program for Counting Rate Corrections
(rate less than 6 counts per second).

```

C      PROGRAM TO CORRECT COUNTING DATA FOR HIGH COUNTING RATE.
      DIMENSION E(150),EN(6,150),T(6,150),N(6,150),ZUM(6),BKGD(6),CMP(6
1      READ(5,99) M
      FORMAT(5,13)
95      READ(5,100) (E(J),EN(1,J),T(1,J),EN(2,J),T(2,J),EN(3,J),T(3,J),
1      EN(4,J),T(4,J),EN(5,J),T(5,J),EN(6,J),T(6,J),J=1,M)
100      FORMAT(13F5.0)
101      READ(5,101) BKNR,(ZUM(I),I=1,6),FACT
      FORMAT(8F5.0)
C      ZUM IS A FACTOR TO ADJUST THE BACKGROUND TO COMPENSATE FOR DIFFERE
C      CHARGE INTEGRATIONS WITH DIFFERENT ABSORBERS.
      DO 200 J=1,M
      DO 201 I=1,6
      BKGD(I)=ZUM(I)*BKNR
      CMP(I,J)=EN(I,J)/((T(I,J)*60.+.0000001)
      CMP(I,J)=CMP(I,J)*(1.+6.*CMP(I,J))
201      N(I,J)=(CMP(I,J)*60.*T(I,J))-BKGD(I)
C      CMP IS COUNTS PER MACHINE PULSE, CMPC IS A CORRECTED CMP, 60 IS
C      FROM 60 MACHINE PULSES PER SECOND.
      CONTINUE
400      WRITE(6,400) 72HENRGY 0 1 2 3
      FORMAT(1H1,5//)
1      WRITE(6,300) ((J),N(1,J),N(2,J),N(3,J),N(4,J),N(5,J),N(6,J),
1      J=1,M)
300      FORMAT(F10.3,6I10)
      DO 90 LK=1,6
      DO 80 LS=1,M
80      WRITE(7,900) E(LS),N(LK,LS)
90      CONTINUE
900      FORMAT(1,1,F7.3,6X,I5)
      STOP
      END

```

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APPENDIX E. Computer Program for Computing Various Distribution Parameters (Copper).

```

1 WRITE (6,300) (T(J),B2(1,J),B2(2,J),B2(3,J),B2(4,J),B2(5,J),J=1,
8)
1 WRITE (6,301)
1 WRITE (6,300) (T(J),A(1,J),A(2,J),A(3,J),A(4,J),A(5,J), J=1,8)
1 WRITE (6,300) (T(J),ALFR(1,J),ALFR(2,J),ALFR(3,J),ALFR(4,J),
1 ALFR(5,J), J=1,8)
300 FORMAT (6(5X, F7.5))
301 FORMAT (1H0/)
1 STCP
END

```

C FIRST DATA CARD 8 THICKNESSES OF ABSORBERS IN REQUIRED FORMAT.
C SECOND DATA CARD 5 INITIAL ENERGY VALUES IN REQUIRED FORMAT.

```

C
C PROGRAM TO CALCULATE VARIOUS DISTRIBUTION PARAMETERS AND RELATED
C QUANTITIES FOR COPPER.
C DIMENSION DELEP(5,8), EIN(5), T(8)
C DIMENSION QBAR(5,8)
C DIMENSION B2(5,8), QZERO(5,8), A(5,8)
C DIMENSION DELEPG(5,8)
C DIMENSION ALFR(5,8)
C READ (5,104) (T(J), J=1,8)
104 FORMAT (8F8.4)
C READ (5,102) (EIN(I), I=1,5)
102 FORMAT (5F10.2)
C WRITE (6,259)
259 FORMAT (1H1, 9HTHICKNESS,30X 20HPROBABLE ENERGY LOSS/ 1H ,
1 7HGM/CMSQ, 45X, 3HMEV)
105 WRITE (6,105) (EIN
FORMAT (1H0,11X, 5(5X,F7.2)/)
DC 201 J=1,8
DC 200 I=1,5
BSQ = (EIN(I)**2+1.022*EIN(I))/((EIN(I)+0.511)**2)
DELEP(I,J)=(0.0701*T(J)/BSQ)*(20.89+ALOG((0.0701*T(J))/BSQ)-BSQ-
10.119*(1-3.0-ALOG10(SQRT(EIN(I)**2+1.022*EIN(I))/0.511)**3.38))
DELEPG(I,J)=DELEP(I,J)/T(J)
QBAR(I,J)=(0.0701*T(J)/BSQ)*(20.26+ALOG(EIN(I))-BSQ-0.119*((3.0-
1ALOG10(SQRT(EIN(I)**2+1.022*EIN(I))/0.511)**3.38))
A(I,J)=0.154*29.0*T(J)/(63.54*BSQ)
G=2.0*EIN(I)*(EIN(I)+0.511)*(EIN(I)+0.511)/(0.511*0.511)

```

```

      B2(I,J)=(2.60/29.0/A(I,J))*(.018006*ALOG(G/.009003)+0.00098*6.*
1     1ALOG(G/0.00098) .000073*10.*ALOG(G/.000073)+C.000008*11.*ALOG(G/
1     10.000008))
      QZERO(I,J)=QBAR (I,J)+A(I,J)*(1.116-ALOG(EIN(I)/A(I,J)))
      ALFR(I,J)=T(J)*0.0014*29.0*29.0/63.54*((4./3.)*ALOG(183./(29.**
1     11./3.)))+1./9.)
200 CONTINUE
201 CONTINUE
      WRITE (6,300) (T(J),DELEP(1,J), DELEP(2,J), DELEP(3,J), DELEP(
1     14,J), DELEP(5,J), J=1,8)
      WRITE (6,301)
      WRITE (6,300) (T(J),DELEPG(1,J),DELEPG(2,J),DELEPG(3,J),DELEPG(4,J
1     1),DELEPG(5,J), J=1,8)
      WRITE (6,301)
      WRITE (6,300) (T(J),QBAR(1,J),QBAR(2,J),QBAR(3,J),QBAR(4,J),
1     1 QBAR(5,J), J=1,8)
      WRITE (6,301)
      WRITE (6,300) (T(J),QZERO(1,J),QZERO(2,J),QZERO(3,J),QZERO(4,J),
1     1 QZERO(5,J), J=1,8)
      WRITE (6,301)
      WRITE (6,300) (T(J),B2(1,J),B2(2,J),B2(3,J),B2(4,J),B2(5,J),J=1,
1     1 B2(8))
      WRITE (6,301)
      WRITE (6,300) (T(J),A(1,J),A(2,J),A(3,J),A(4,J),A(5,J), J=1,8)
      WRITE (6,301)
      WRITE (6,300) (T(J),ALFR(1,J),ALFR(2,J),ALFR(3,J),ALFR(4,J),
1     1 ALFR(5,J), J=1,8)
300 FORMAT (6(5X, F7.5))
301 FORMAT (1H0/)
      STCP
      END

```

APPENDIX F. Computer Program for Distribution Calculations

```

DIMENSION FEF(400), FEI(300), FQO(100), EF(400)
20  READ (5,20) AMP
    READ (5,20) AMPX
    FORMAT (F5.0)
40C  READ (5,400) N
    READ (5,400) M
    FORMAT (I3)
399  READ (5,399) (EIS, A, OZERO, C)
    FORMAT (4F10.0)
401  READ (5,401) (FQO(I), I=1,N)
    READ (5,401) (FEI(I), I=1,M)
    FORMAT (F10.0)
499  DO 499 K=1,400
    FEF(K)=0.0000000000000000
    DO 700 J=1,N
    DO 700 I=1,M
    FEF(I+J-1)=FEF(I+J-1)+FQO(J)*FEI(I)*AMP
700  CONTINUE
701  LP=N+M-1
    CQ=FEF(1)
    DO 710 I=1,LP
    IF(DQ.LT.FEF(I))DQ=FEF(I)
710  CONTINUE
    AMP=AMPX/DQ*1000.
75  DO 75 K=1,400
    FEF(K)=0.0000000000000000
    DO 501 J=1,N
    DO 500 I=1,M
    FEF(I+J-1)=FEF(I+J-1)+FQO(J)*FEI(I)*AMP
    B=(I+J-1)
    EF(I+J-1)=EIS-QZERO+5.0*A-B*A/C
    L=M+N-1
500  CONTINUE
501  CONTINUE
600  WRITE (6,600) (EF(I), FEF(I), I=1,L),
    (I=1, 18H ENERGY COUNT // (F10.6, F10.4))
    FORMAT (I4, 18X, F10.6, F10.4)
80  DO 80 LS=1,L
    WRITE(7,900) EF(LS), FEF(LS)
90C  FORMAT (F10.6, F10.4)
    STOP
    END

```

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